Truth commission on Marcos victims' claims sought

Story below, COL. 1

OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Cosmonaut, sweetheart wed in space

MOSCOW—Russian cosmonaut Yury Malenchenko was set Sunday to marry his US sweetheart Yekaterina Dmitriyeva in what frowning Russian officials are promising will

COSMONAUT/ A19

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gov't sees 2003 budget gap at P178B to P185B
  BUSINESS /B1
- Taylor: Goodbye to Liberia
  WORLD/A11
- AFP corruption blamed for Army officer's death
  ACROSS/A13

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Monday, August 11, 2003 ★★ 72 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 244 P15
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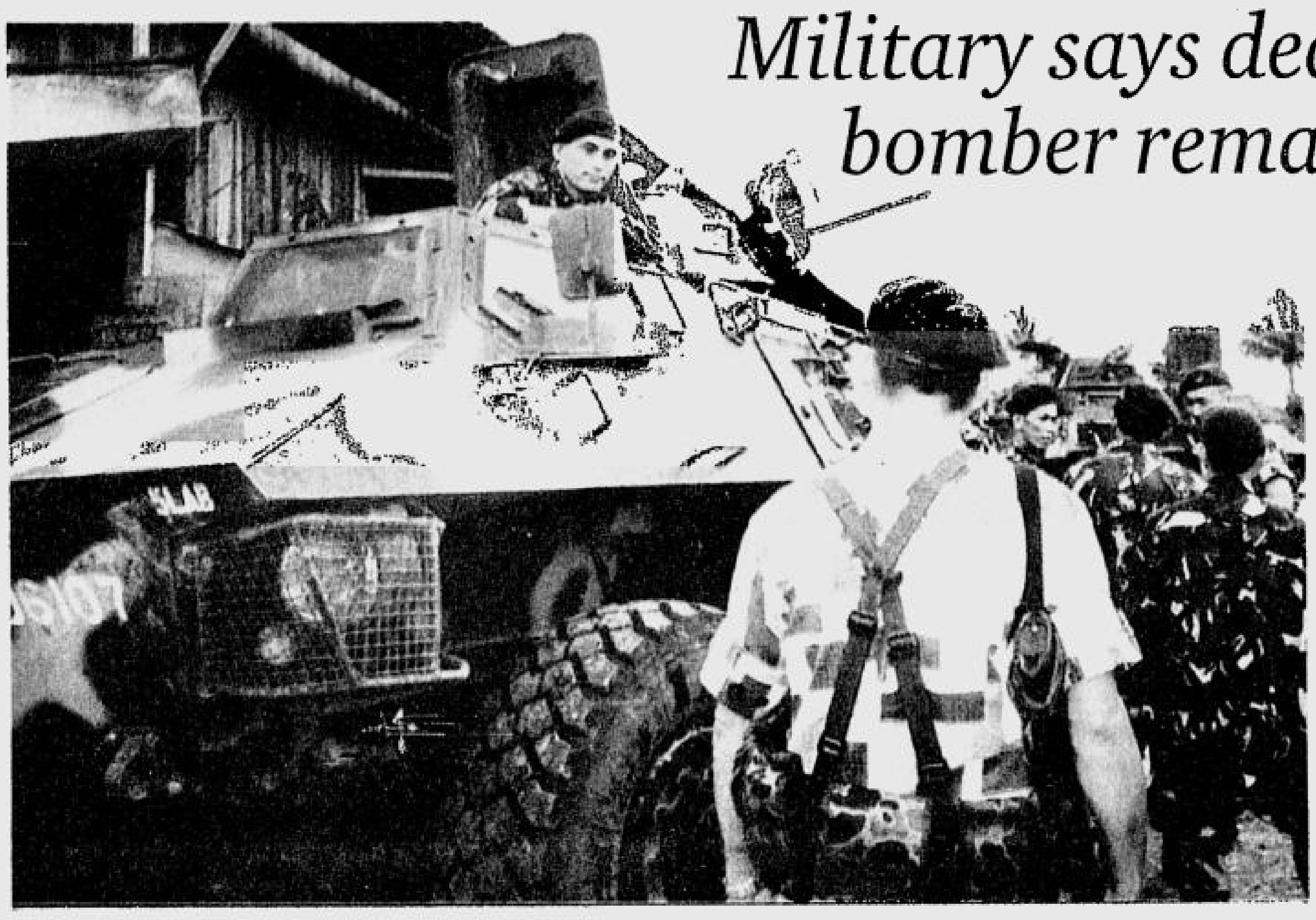
Clash erupts in hunt for Al-Ghozi; 3 dead

Military says death of Indon bomber remains a dream



MILITARY armored vehicles are posted at a checkpoint in Marawi City as Army soldiers battle armed men believed to be protecting Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi in the nearby jungles.

AFP

By Julie S. Alipala
and Hernan P. dela Cruz
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Christian V. Esguerra

THREE gunmen believed to be part of a group coddling escaped Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi were killed while six soldiers were wounded in an encounter in Lanao del Norte yesterday, according to military officials.

The clash came as soon as members of Task Group Panther from the Army's 1st Scout Ranger Battalion spotted several armed men in Barangay Rebucon at the Sampinitan Complex in Sultan Naga Dimaporo town at around 11:30 a.m.

Maj. Gen. Trifonio Salazar, chief of the 1st Tabak Division, said two attack helicopters were used as aerial support at the Sampinitan Complex, which covers three upland barangays.

Although Al-Ghozi was not seen during the encounter, the terrorist could be in the area, Salazar said.

Al-Ghozi is a member of the Southeast Asian terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah, who had confessed to his involvement in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila.

It was not clear which group the armed men belonged to, Salazar said, although the area is a known stronghold of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which intelligence operatives say has strong links with the JI terror network.

The fighting was in an area bordering the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, a known stronghold of the MILF, Salazar said.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer, said Al-Ghozi was still alive and at large, contrary to the claim of an unnamed diplomat. "We hope it's true (that Al-Ghozi is dead)," Lucero said. "But as of now, it's still a dream, still a wish."

Al-Ghozi and Abu Sayyaf members Omar Opik Lasal and Abdulmukim Ong Edris escaped from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Quezon

CLASH/ A20

Gov't eyes ₱412B in loans to ease budget deficit

By Carlito Pablo

THE VICIOUS debt cycle goes on.

Malacañang has informed Congress that the government will borrow nearly half a trillion pesos in 2004 to finance the budget deficit next year, and to settle maturing foreign and domestic debt obligations.

In a briefing paper, the Department of Budget and Management said the Macapagal administration will borrow a total of P411.9 billion, or 4.7 percent higher than the P393.5 billion programmed borrowing for this year.

The amount will consist of P288.1 billion in domestic borrowings (70 percent of the total) and P123.8 billion in foreign borrowings (30 percent).

The DBM said the borrowings would cover the projected budget deficit of P197.8 billion for 2004 and settle P270.7 billion in maturing foreign and domestic debts.

The government's indebtedness has sent alarm bells ringing at the House of Representatives.

In a statement, Rep. Rolando Andaya (Lakas, Camarines Sur) described the country's seemingly unending indebtedness as the "sum of all our fears."

Andaya chairs the House appropriations committee that will review the Palace's proposed national budget of P864.8 billion for 2004.

Based on DBM figures, the government will be shelling out P271.5 billion for interest payments alone next year.

GOV'T/ A18

Why Reyes succeeded and young mutineers failed

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE FAILED July 27 coup attempt has given rise to insipid comparisons between the young officers' mutiny and the January 2001 military intervention led by then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes that precipitated the collapse of the government under President Joseph Estrada.

In the effort to seek lenient treatment for the July 27 mutineers, who are facing possible court martial, some sectors argue that Reyes was guilty of the same offense—staging a coup d'etat—which the rebels have been charged with by the justice department. Reyes' intervention was no less a "coup" against the Estrada administration, so runs the argument.

To sort out the flaws in this argument, a close examination of the contexts of the July 27 mutiny and the January 2001 intervention is important.

The first obvious difference between the two military actions is that the July 27 coup attempt collapsed, and Reyes' intervention succeeded, and that is what makes it stand out in comparison with the wave of coups since the closing days of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

No military intervention intended to unseat a civilian-led government had succeeded in toppling a government since the series of coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino in the 1980s until the Reyes-led intervention.

Most of the 1980s coups were bloody;

WHY REYES/ A20

More nursing schools, but quality down

By Blanche S. Rivera

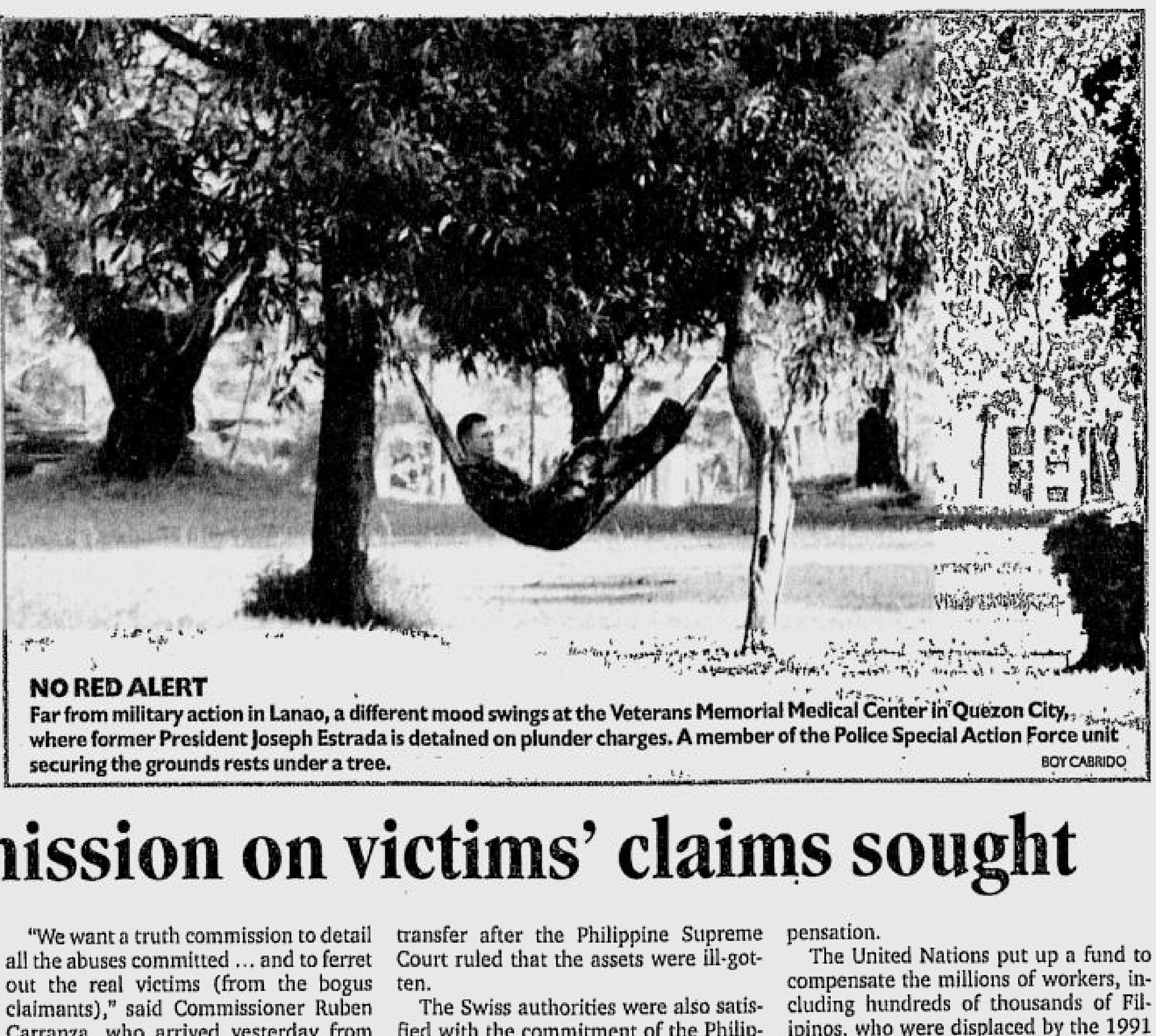
IF THE RESULTS of the nursing board examination are any indication, then more than half of the nursing graduates in the country are not skilled enough.

Fely Marilyn Lorenzo, director of the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies which conducted research work on the surplus of Filipino nursing graduates, said the quality of nursing education in the country has been "deteriorating" due to the proliferation of nursing schools.

Lorenzo noted that in a span of five years alone, the number of schools offering nursing courses had skyrocketed from 182 in 1998 to more than 300 as of this month.

In contrast, less than half of the graduates pass the nursing board exam. Last

MORE/ A20



NO RED ALERT

Far from military action in Lanao, a different mood swings at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, where former President Joseph Estrada is detained on plunder charges. A member of the Police Special Action Force unit securing the grounds rests under a tree.

BOY CABRIDO

Phone call to Basilan led to Edris

By Fe Zamora
INQ7.net

A TELEPHONE call from a landline in Iligan City to a mobile cellular phone in Basilan gave away the location of escaped Abu Sayyaf leader Abdulmukim Edris, according to a military information officer.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, Armed Forces spokesperson, said Edris, 31, placed the call to "someone" in Basilan about three weeks ago, or about a week after he walked out from Camp Crame with fellow detainees—Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and Abu Sayyaf member Omar Opik Lasal—on July 14.

"The area code 63 was the clue," Lucero told INQ7.net. The code covers Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, and all their cities and municipalities.

Lucero refused to identify the person whom Edris called, or whether the own-

PHONE/ A19

Truth commission on victims' claims sought

By Dona Pazzibugan

A "TRUTH commission" should handle the compensation of victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime, according to the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The PCGG said this independent body would determine who the real victims were, and how much compensation they were entitled to.

"We want a truth commission to detail all the abuses committed … and to ferret out the real victims (from the bogus claimants)," said Commissioner Ruben Carranza, who arrived yesterday from Switzerland.

Last week, the PCGG succeeded in releasing the $683-million Marcos Swiss deposits from its escrow account in the Philippine National Bank.

The Swiss justice ministry cleared the transfer after the Philippine Supreme Court ruled that the assets were ill-gotten.

The Swiss authorities were also satisfied with the commitment of the Philippine government, through the PCGG, to compensate martial law victims with part of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

Carranza said the PCGG feared that the matter of the Marcos compensation might go the way of the Gulf War compensation.

The United Nations put up a fund to compensate the millions of workers, including hundreds of thousands of Filipinos, who were displaced by the 1991 US-Iraq war.

Due to numerous fictitious claims and other forms of swindling, the Department of Foreign Affairs only completed the task last year.

TRUTH/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western sections of Luzon and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/11/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

Present mutineers, solons insist

DAVAO CITY—The Senate is ready to cite for contempt some government officials and officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for keeping five leaders of the July 27 mutiny from testifying in the ongoing inquiry.

The House of Representatives, on the other hand, is compelling the AFP to produce the junior officers for the congressional hearing, with the subpoena about to be signed by Speaker Jose de Venecia.

This as Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla made it clear they were not keen on Malacañang's suggestion for the two chambers of Congress to conduct a joint inquiry.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was earlier quoted as saying she wanted the joint hearing to be held at the national military headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

In a statement, she said there was no doubt the Palace wanted to help both chambers in their probe. "The only standing issue," the President said, "is whether the hearing should be held in the Senate or in the venue of detention. I am sure this can be resolved before the scheduled hearing. This is a matter of safeguarding lives and national security."

While they saw nothing wrong with a joint hearing per se, Pimentel and Padilla, who were here for a forum on federalism, suspected that Malacañang's move was a "dilatory tactic."

Pimentel said it could affect the objective of both probes, which was not to pinpoint blame, but to look at the causes of the crisis and propose appropriate legislation.

"I don't think we will cross paths at any point and come to different conclusions," Pimentel said.

"They seem to be afraid of something," Padilla added. He said a joint hearing was first proposed by De Venecia himself on several occasions but that up to now, no resolution pushing it has been filed.

Pimentel and Padilla, however, stressed that both chambers had made parallel moves to compel the AFP to produce the young officers.

Independent of the probe, senators are moving to address the issues raised by the mutineers, and the plight of soldiers in general.

Pimentel is urging the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman to prosecute government officials and civilians earlier recommended for trial by Senate committees for alleged involvement in multibillion-peso anomalies in the military.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he was writing a letter to ask Ms Macapagal to certify as urgent pending national defense and security bills that he had earlier filed, including one that would penalize those who sell military firearms and ammunition to enemies of the state.

Biazon said that of the four bills, two addressed the complaints of the mutineers that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was micro-managing the military and that defense officials were in business with the other side.

These are Senate Bill No. 1606, which seeks the death penalty for the crime of selling arms, ammunition, explosives, or any part or component in the manufacture of these items to enemies of the state; and Senate Bill No. 2114, which prohibits a person from being appointed as defense secretary within three years after relief from active military service.

Pimentel specifically wants the Ombudsman and the DOJ to prosecute the suspects in irregularities discovered at the Retirement and Separation Benefit System (RSBS) and the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, as well as in the killing of Ens. Philip Andrew Pestaño, who allegedly uncovered rampant graft in the Philippine Navy.

In a statement, he maintained that the failure to prosecute these people had caused demoralization and restiveness among military personnel, and triggered last month's mutiny.

Pimentel said that in the RSBS case, a general and a major were among those recommended for prosecution as early as 2001 by the blue ribbon committee that he formerly chaired. The scandal involved questionable investments made by the agency that caused the dissipation of its resources. *PDI Mindanao Bureau and Christine O. Avendaño*

Reyes to undergo lifestyle check

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes is covered by the ongoing lifestyle check on top government officials that is part of Malacañang's revitalized anti-corruption drive.

This was confirmed by presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye in a Radio Mindanao Network interview.

Reyes' real estate properties have been the subject of media reports since the July 27 Makati mutiny, during which young military officers included lack of housing for soldiers among numerous grievances.

Asked if the defense chief was included in the check, Bunye said, "No one is above (the order)."

In the interview, Bunye said those who failed to justify lavish lifestyles in relation to their incomes would be charged in court, like several officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs recently.

He said the Philippine Anti-Graft Commission would handle cases involving presidential appointees, and those involving government employees would go to the Ombudsman.

In a previous statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the "continuing purge of the high echelons of government will be sustained under due process. Our democracy has the means and tools to check and contain corruption that we will use to the fullest extent." *Gil Cabacungan*

Gringo wants more time to answer coup raps

By Christine O. Avendaño

WANTED Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan yesterday said he will face the coup charges filed against him by the government but he wants more time to put up his legal defense.

From his hiding place, Honasan said his lawyers should be given the chance to get the "official statements" of his "other co-accused" in the alleged plot to overthrow the government as part of his defense.

Among those accused with Honasan are five young junior officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including Lt. (sg.) Antonio Trillanes IV, who are being held in "incommunicado" detention at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

The five were accused of leading the mutiny at the Oakwood Premier luxury apartment-hotel in Makati City on July 27. They said Honasan had served as the inspiration for the coup attempt with his National Recovery Program.

In a phone interview, Honasan denied the allegations of the government's star witness, Maj. Perfecto Ragil, that the senator was the leader of the mutinous soldiers.

Ragil, in a sworn statement, said he attended a secret meeting in a San Juan, Metro Manila, house on June 4 where Honasan talked about the plot to overthrow the government and oust the President.

Ragil said Honasan made threats against him at the meeting when he engaged the senator in a debate on corruption. Later, Ragil said, Honasan led the young officers present in a blood compact to seal their bond.

"I don't know Ragil. And why should I go to a secret meeting, administer a blood compact for an extra-constitutional plot, and debate an officer?" Honasan asked yesterday.

He called Ragil's claims "illogical" and "defying reason."

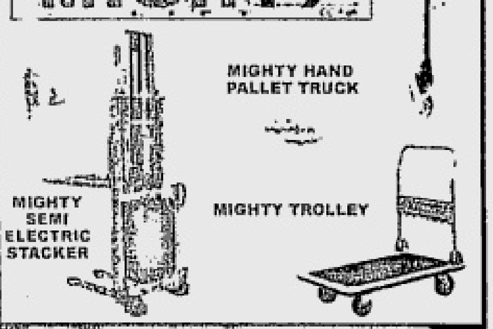
Honasan also wondered why the government was giving weight to the testimony of Ragil alone.

He said two other co-accused in the coup charges, Col. Virgilio Briones (ret.) and Col. Romeo Lazo (ret.), both with the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., had already stated that he (Honasan) had not instructed them to form the "civilian component" of the supposed coup attempt.

"They have come out to say that no instruction emanated from me to support the mutiny at Oakwood," Honasan pointed out.

The two former military officers led members of the Guardians in signing a peace covenant with the government the other day.

Honasan also said he has not received the subpoena issued to him last Friday by the Department of Justice. His lawyer, Daniel Gutierrez, said the subpoena had been improperly served.



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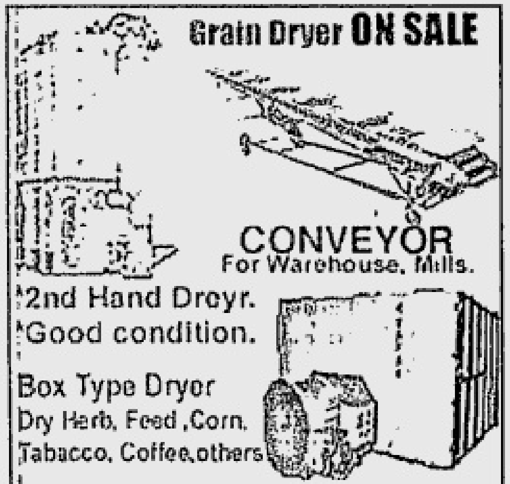

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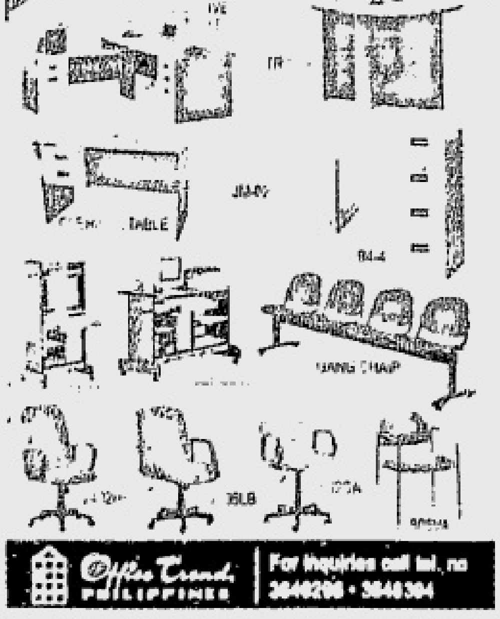

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Bear with tighter security–Palace

MALACAÑANG yesterday called on the public to be more cooperative and understanding of heightened security measures in many public places in the face of renewed terrorist threats to the country.

In an interview over RMN radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the government was considering beefing up security by deploying more forces in Metro Manila and other urban centers.

Bunye said the strict security measures such as vehicle, baggage and personal checks were being implemented for everyone's safety.

Bunye also appealed to mobile phone users to refrain from forwarding "alarmist text messages."

"If you don't know the veracity of the messages, let us be responsible by not sending them," Bunye said.

"We have to remain calm as we raise the level of alertness," he added. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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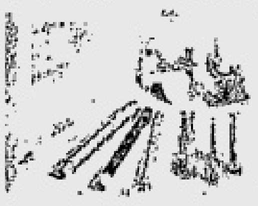
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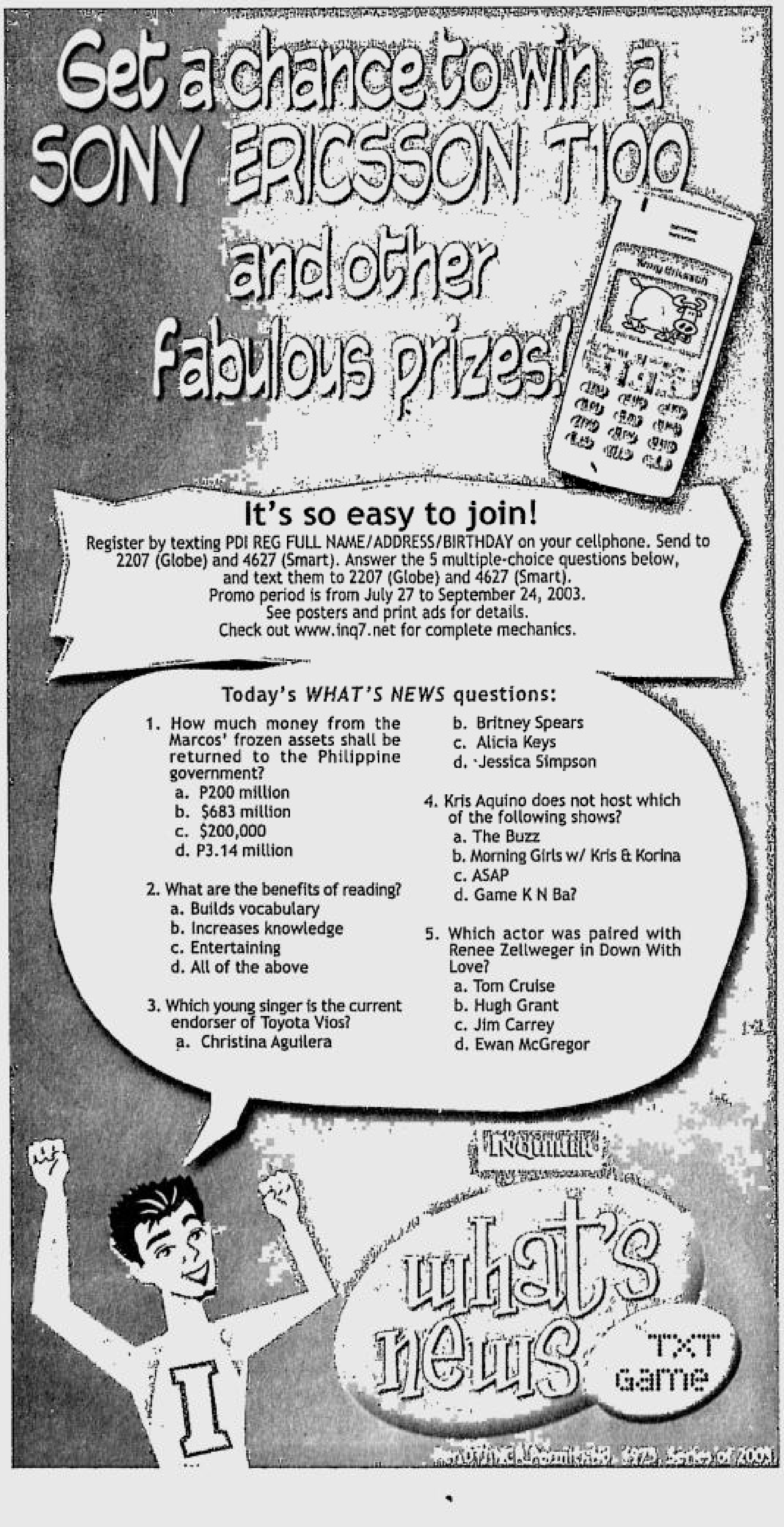
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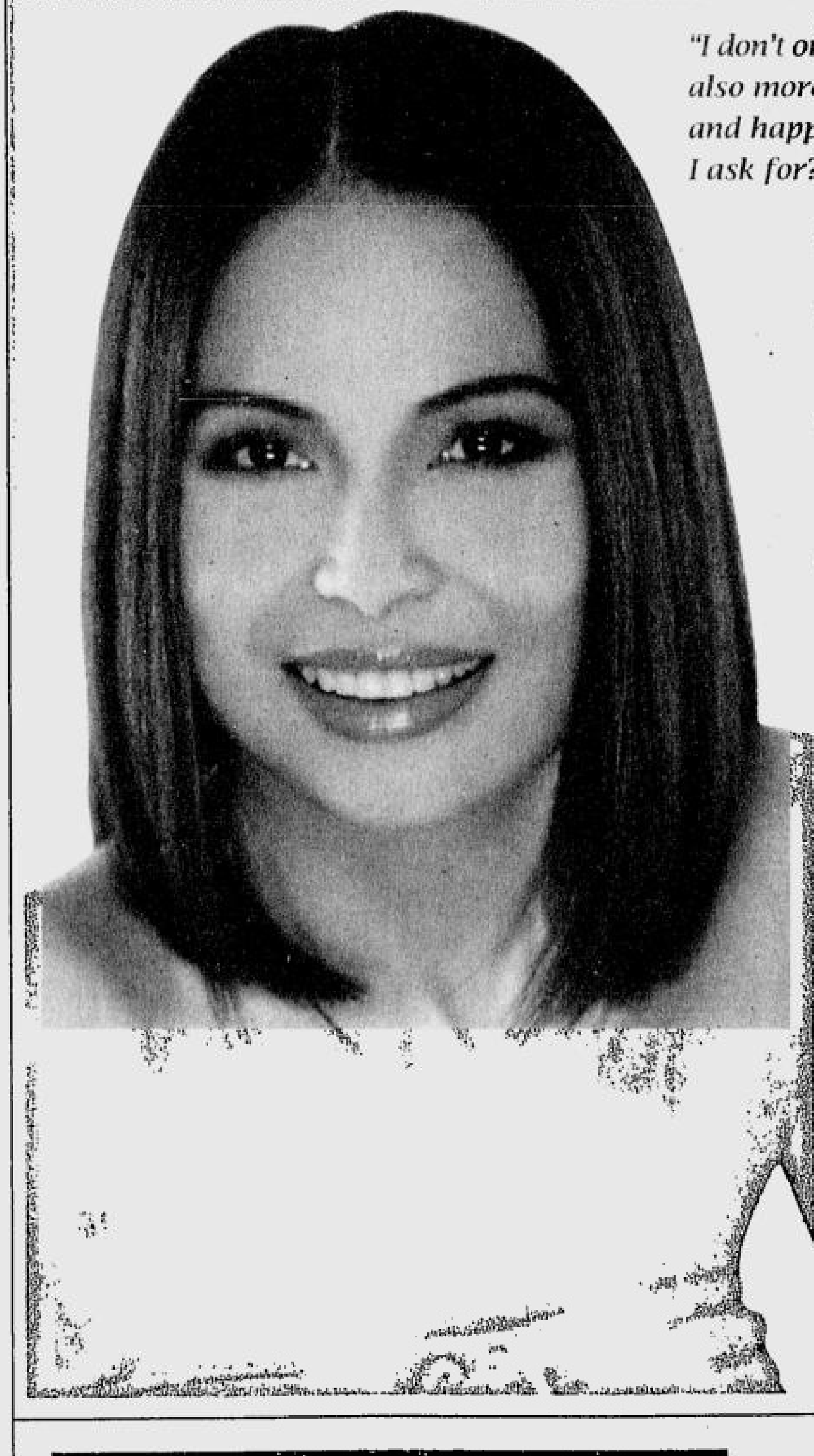
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Tillers' share of Marcos wealth gets smaller

By Norman Bordadora

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan said only P8 billion of the P38 billion in confiscated Marcos ill-gotten wealth would go to actual land reform once the Supreme Court ruling on the escrow account containing the money becomes final and executory.

As this developed, the executive committee of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) has agreed on a "framework" budget for the P30 billion that by law should go to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

In an interview, Pagdanganan told the INQUIRER the bulk of the P30 billion will go toward roads, irrigation, credit and other related services, including the construction of school houses in "agrarian reform communities."

He said this was because "land acquisition and distribution is the heart of land reform but it is not the heart of agrarian reform. What would we do with the land if those who would use it cannot avail of services to make it productive?"

Upon instruction of the President, the PARC adopted a formula that allotted P8 billion of the P38 billion escrow account to the human rights victims, P8 billion for land acquisition and P22 billion for related services.

Earlier figures bandied about had between P2 billion and P10 billion going to the victims of abuse during the martial law regime of Ferdinand Marcos.

The PARC is chaired by the President while Pagdanganan, as DAR secretary, is its vice chair. Members include farmers' organizations, related government agencies and land reform advocates.

While the formula has yet to be approved by the President, Pagdanganan said it is the framework for how the special budget would be apportioned.

"This is more or less the formula we will be using. But we are still open to more dialogue and consultation," he said.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, however, said the framework could easily be adopted after the SC decision becomes final and Congress amends the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law to include human rights claimants as co-beneficiaries of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

"If the CARP is amended, the only question to be settled is whether the human rights victims would get P10 billion or P8 billion," Rosales told the INQUIRER.

Rosales also questioned the inclusion of school buildings in the allocation and wondered how such items as technical and marketing support could be safeguarded.

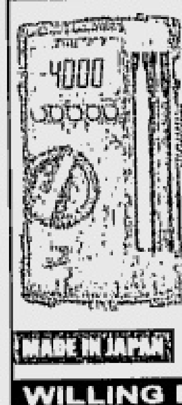
"We have to be careful here because in just one step, the government could be questioned for electioneering using these funds," she said.

Rosales and the NGO Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services Inc. (PARDDS) have asked Pagdanganan for a dialogue on the matter.

"The (PARC) allocation scheme goes against the very spirit and intent of the CARP, which is to carry out land redistribution to promote social justice," said PARRDS executive director Ricardo Reyes.

"At this point, when so much land is still waiting to be covered by the law, the higher priority of the government should be land acquisition," Reyes said.

He said support services such as farmer credit, irrigation and access roads can be addressed through other fund sources such as overseas development assistance, "which have always been accessible but have not been used wisely."



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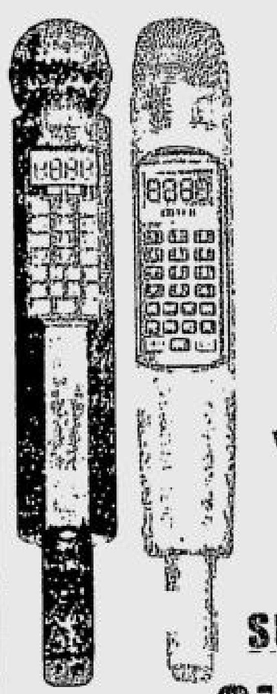

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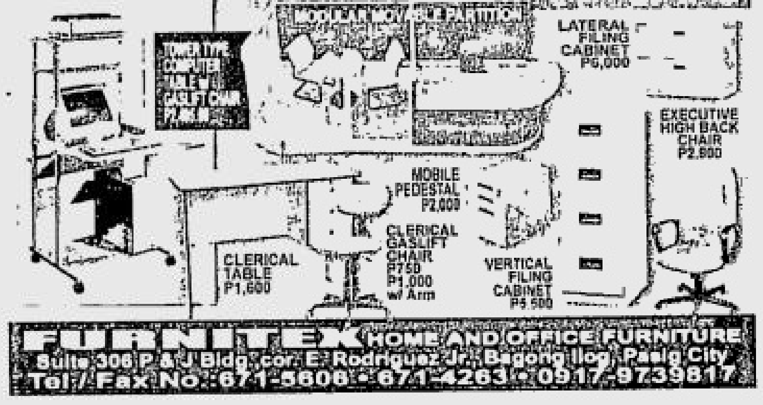
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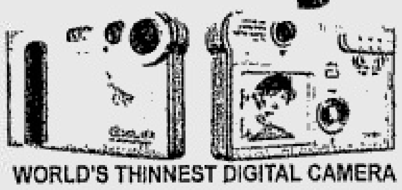
Lorenzo urges farmers to fight cheaper imports

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is urging farmers' groups to file petitions for the application of trade remedy measures against subsidized agricultural products imported from abroad.

Among the remedial measures to be considered are countervailing and anti-dumping duties, which could be imposed on imported products that are dumped in an export market at costs lower than in their country of origin.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said, "an important safety net in the face of globalization is the imposition of additional duties on imports of products that harm the local agricultural industry" *Norman Bordadora*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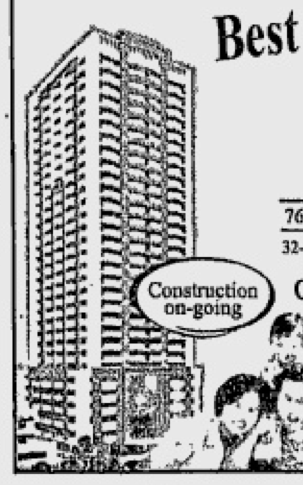
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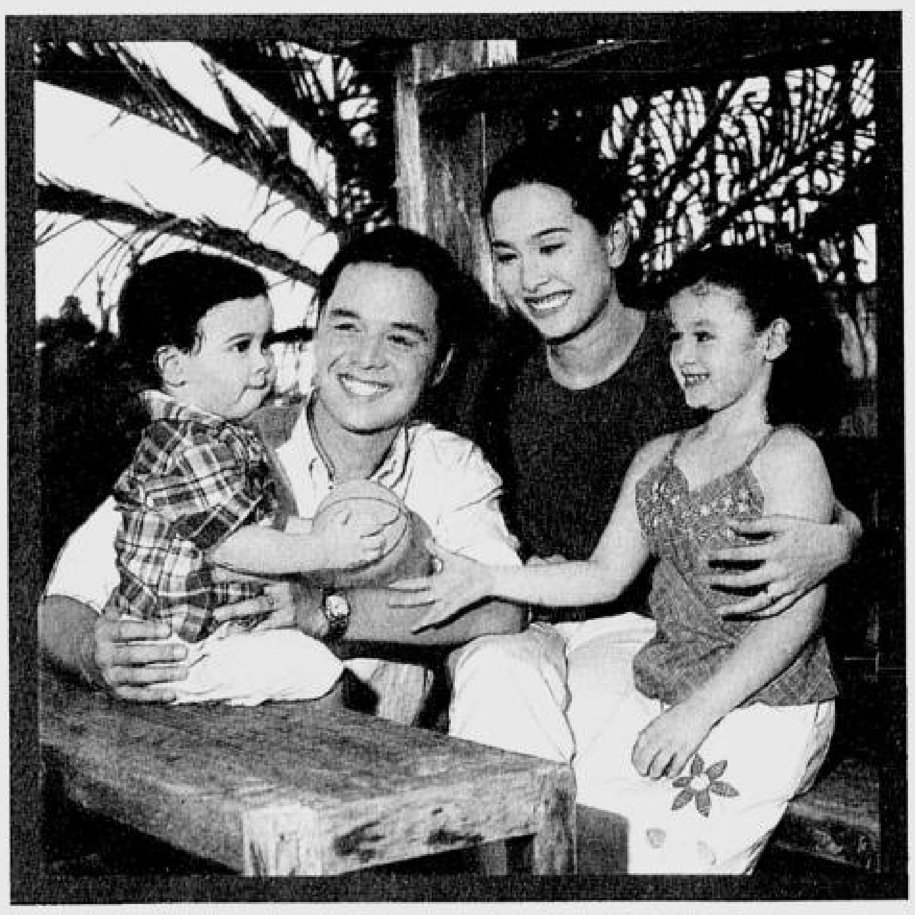
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Sin, Church to blame for RP ills, says author

By Michelle V. Remo

THE MAN thought "crazy" for daring to question the citizenship of Jaime Cardinal Sin in December 2000 is at again.

After the Bureau of Immigration snubbed his deportation case against Sin, Ramon Roces Arevalo wrote a book that he launched last Friday, in which he attributes the country's poverty and social ills to the Catholic Church.

Arevalo, a former newspaper columnist who now works as a media specialist and crisis manager, said the cardinal and the Church had been "manipulating the country for a long time."

In "The Cardinal Sins of the Catholic Church," Arevalo accuses Sin of making millions from political endorsements. The book claims that Sin's "benediction" of election candidates was based on "considerations of personal gain" and "expanded his wealth beyond man's wildest dreams."

Aside from the deportation case against the cardinal, Arevalo filed cases of dollar-salting, economic sabotage, plunder, land grabbing and estafa against the Catholic Church in 2002.

But the suits went the way of the deportation case—the Department of Justice did not bother to look at them.

Now in the book, Arevalo enumerates the haciendas that the Church allegedly "grabbed" when the country was still a Spanish colony. He denounces the Church's exclusion from tax payments, even while it engages in various "businesses" such as schools and banks, and invests in blue chip stocks.

The book also says the Cardinal accepted "donations" from former prostitution houses, beer gardens and gambling dens and that he planned to topple former President Fidel Ramos who is not a Catholic.

"Everybody laughed at me for seeking his deportation," Arevalo said during the book launch. "People didn't get the point." He said the cardinal lost his Filipino citizenship when he ran for the papacy, since this entailed the assumption of Vatican citizenship.

He said he would file another plunder case against the Catholic Church this week, and one for political interference against Sin. Also, he said, he will file treason and conspiracy charges against Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo for not allowing his case against Sin to prosper.

The Catholic Church would not comment on the allegations. Peachy Yamsuan, information officer of the Archdiocese of Manila, said Arevalo was free to file charges against anyone, and added that the supposed exposé, was nothing new. *With Blanche Rivera*

Senate to probe publisher's arrest

THE SENATE committee on public information and mass media is set to start today an inquiry into the Aug. 5 arrest of Daily Tribune publisher Ninez Cacho-Olivares, to "determine whether authorities complied with legal procedures covering the arrest of journalists facing libel charges."

Among those expected to attend today's hearing are Olivares, former Sen. Rene Saguisag and Antonio Antonio, president of the National Press Club.

The inquiry resulted from Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III's privileged speech last week denouncing Olivares' arrest, which the publisher claimed was politically motivated.

Olivares was picked up by Manila police at her Parañaque residence based on an arrest warrant for 19 counts of libel filed against her. She was allowed to post P190,000 bail.

Christine Avendaño

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'The Firm' denies spreading Camacho rumors

THE INFLUENTIAL Villaraza & Angangco law firm has denied fanning rumors of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho's imminent resignation, which have been circulating in government and private circles the last two weeks.

The law office, known as The Firm for its perceived closeness to the First Couple, faxed a statement to the INQUIRER reacting to a front-page story on Aug. 9 that said an unidentified law firm was looking for Camacho's replacement.

In the statement, the law firm said: "While Villaraza and Angangco does not feel alluded to by the article, it felt compelled to categorically deny any involvement in, or knowledge of, the supposed Camacho ouster …"

The firm also denied any involvement in the rumored replacement of Camacho by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, saying, "It is a matter over which President Macapagal-Arroyo has sole prerogative as the appointing power." *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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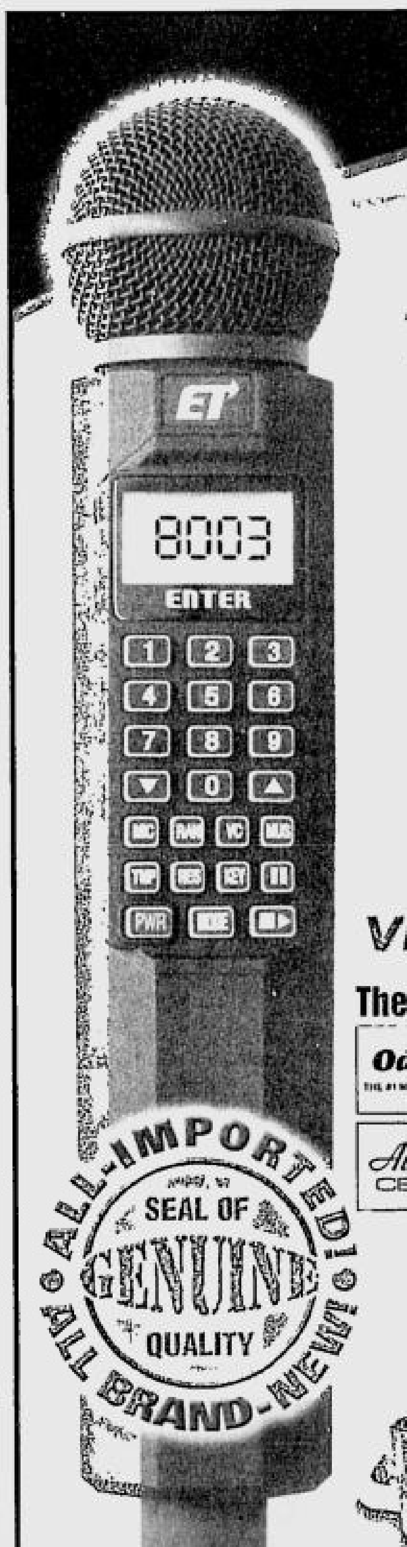
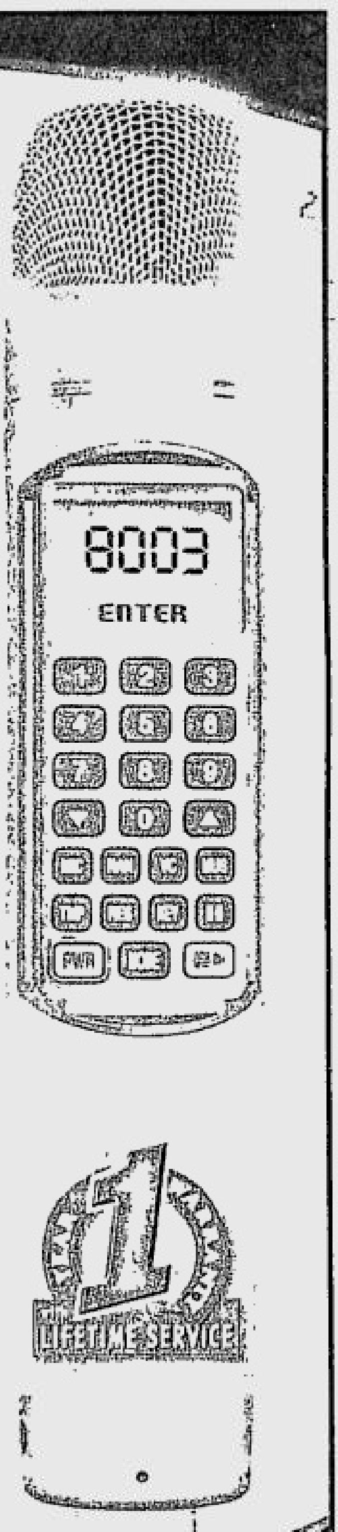
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ISSN
0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 18 No. 244

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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Net negative

EDITORIAL

WILL the post-mutiny bounce in the President's ratings, which pollsters already anticipate, finally push her to run in next year's elections? We hope not, both for her sake and the country's.

Two weeks after the failed military rebellion, it has become clear that the administration acted decisively and effectively during that fateful weekend. President Macapagal-Arroyo had every good reason, late on Sunday, July 27, to wax ecstatic over the way the uprising had been swiftly contained.

But it has also become equally clear that, on balance, the failed coup was a net negative for the President.

We have no reason to doubt that history will assert itself, and that the public will rally around the President as it rallied around Corazon Aquino in the aftermath of each coup attempt in the 1980s. But the President's political advisers must not read in this historical pattern the signs of a campaign draft. The people are rallying around the office and the democratic order it represents, not the temporary office-holder.

Already, in a mere two weeks, the administration has lost much of the political goodwill it gained in its swift quelling of the attempted coup through two wasteful, self-destructive acts: a tantrum directed against members of the business community, and an unproductive squabble over the need for the declaration of a state of rebellion to continue in force indefinitely.

The President's gratuitous swipe at the chair of the Makati Business Club—"What can you expect from a lawyer for Piatco?"—did not only commit the basic error of mistaking a lawyer's clients for the lawyer himself. (What does that make of one of her favorite lawyers, who is close to quasi-opposition leader Eduardo Cojuangco?) It also buried her I-kept-the-economy-open-for-business message in needless static.

The pointless decision to let the declaration of a state of rebellion remain in force also served to draw unwelcome congressional attention, not to the coup plotters, but to the very government authorities who stopped the coup attempt in its tracks. This is unfortunate, because to flush out the rebels and their civilian masterminds, the government does not even need these additional powers.

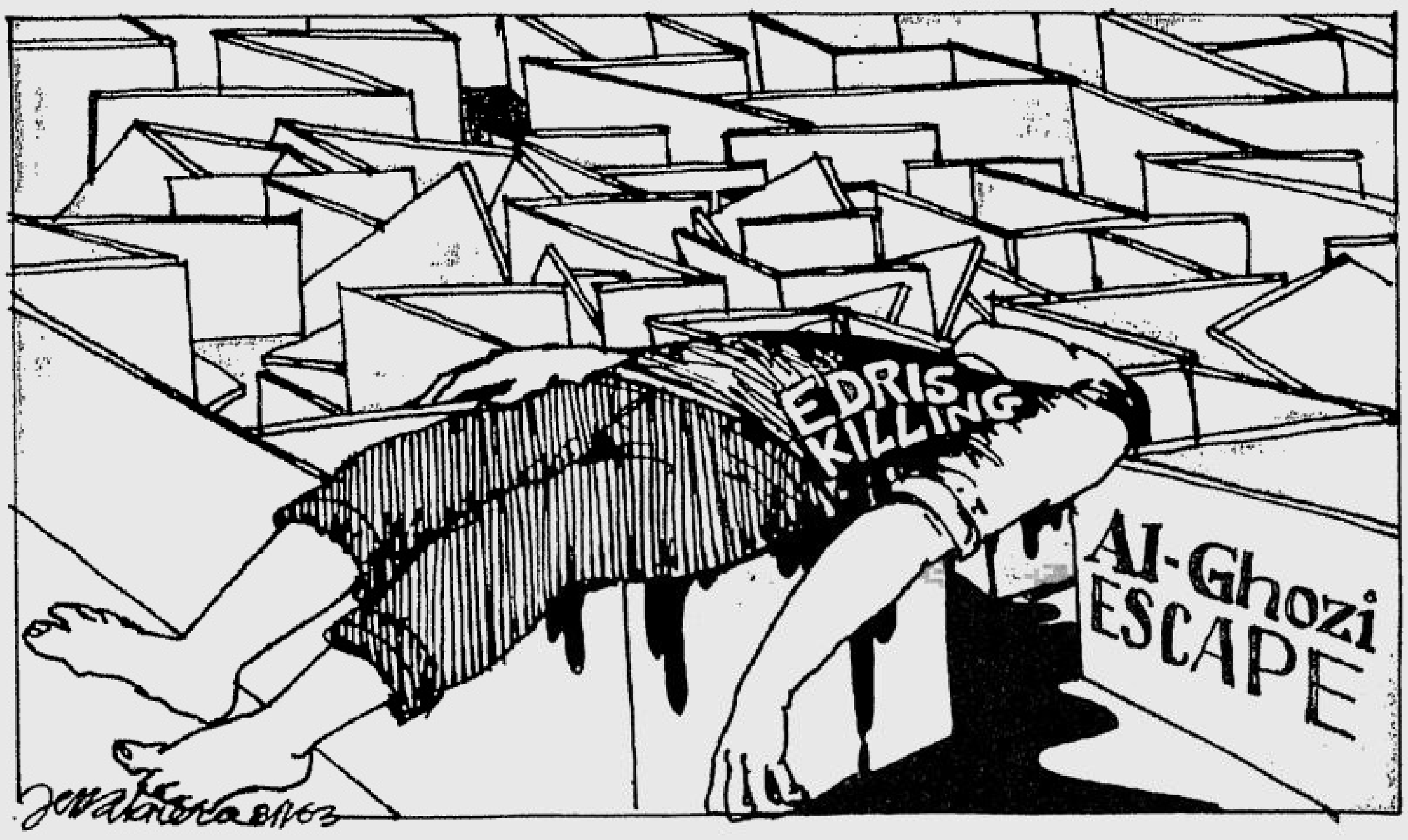
Even if these two acts had not dissipated the administration's political goodwill, however, the military rebellion would still mean a gain in the short term but a loss in the long run for the President.

Leading international news organizations such as the Economist magazine and the BBC have pointed out that even if the rebellion was resolved in 20 hours or less, the mere fact that the uprising took place was already discomfiting. Coming barely two weeks after the escape that humiliated the Philippines before the international community—Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, the top bomb-maker for the radical Islamist group Jemaah Islamiyah, waltzed out of his detention cell in national police headquarters on July 14—the coup attempt was bound to have a negative impact on the country even if it failed.

What the coup attempts in Aquino's time and the July 27 rebellion have in common is historical circumstance. Then as now, the coup plotters took advantage of the uncertainty, the divisiveness, of transition politics. Last Dec. 30, in Baguio City, the President had the definitive word on this state of divisiveness. Noting that there was "too much politics hampering good, productive governance," she concluded that "the 2004 election may well go down in history as among our most bitterly contested elections ever. This is because of the deep social and political division that we now have."

Her "reading of the political winds" then led the President to make her dramatic renunciation—not to run in 2004. "But since I'm among the principal figures in the divisive national events for the last two or three years, my political efforts can only result in never-ending divisiveness."

In the forbidding light of the President's own analysis, the mutiny can be understood as the extension of politically divisive acts through military means. That it happened at all is proof that the President remains a divisive figure, and her reading remains valid.



Why coups are treated differently

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THERE are at least five investigations of the failed Makati mutiny: two by special presidential commissions, one by the Department of Justice and one each by the Senate and House of Representatives. Yet, there is no need for one, because the facts are known, even to the public.

The foremost question is: Why are we having a surfeit of coup attempts by the military since 1986? The answer is obvious to the public. Like taking olives out of a bottle, after the first coup, the rest is easy. Because instead of punishing the coup plotters, we rewarded them. We rewarded them with the biggest prize within the capacity of the Filipino people to give. We elected one to Malacañang and another to the Senate.

So other military officers want to follow suit—become senators and congressmen and, who knows, president. And experience shows that the fastest way to gain national attention is to lead a coup—especially if you are good looking. Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and his fellow officers in the Makati adventure are now being treated like matinee idols with women swooning over them. In man-on-the-street interviews, many people—men, women and gays—are willing to go easy on the mutineers instead of punishing them for committing such a heinous crime. Why? "Because they are *pogi* and *guwapo*."

Before them, there was, of course, Gringo Honasan. He was lionized by hordes of adoring women, and by the mass media, even while the 1986 People Power Revolution was going on. And he was no doubt catapulted to the Senate not so much for his intellectual prowess but because of his *mestizo* looks. The same reason, by the way, that many actors, actresses and entertainers were elected to public office: nice outside, nothing inside.

Gringo is accused, again, of masterminding the latest rebellion, which he denies. His wife laments that the government has blamed him for "nine coup attempts," which, she insists, is false. One joke goes like this: Why blame Gringo when he is just following the motto that when you don't succeed the first time, try and try again. Another joke says that he was just trying to do what he knows best.

Good-natured jokes said with more affection than with cruel intent. But what I'm trying to say is that if I were to organize a coup, the first thing I'll do is recruit the best-looking officers I can find. Then the coup will have better chances of success. Even if the coup fails, at least I can have them elected to public office or palm them off as entertainers.

I'm also trying to say that we are engaged in contradictions. One coup is as good, or as bad, as the others, but we are treating them differently. The Makati mutineers are being demonized for trying to repeat what was hailed by the nation and by the whole world 17 years ago: the People Power Revolution. Edsa I and the Oakwood mutiny are the same: attempts to depose the president and commander in chief and to grab power. But the plotters in one were praised, but in the other, they are facing court martial and long prison terms. Why the different treatments?

Answer: Because the plotters won in the first and lost in the other. If they had lost in 1986, they would have been shot as traitors. But because they won, they wrote the rules.

Similarly, had the Makati mutineers won, they would now be hailed as heroes instead of heels. Many of them would now be high-government officials, perhaps members of a ruling junta, the mastermind and/or financier, perhaps the new president. On the other hand, Gloria and Mike Arroyo and their supporters would be history, many of them in prison or hiding abroad.

Similarly, what the young mutineers did last month in Makati, then Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes did in 2001. Reyes led a mutiny against his president and commander in chief, in violation of the Constitution and the Revised Penal Code.

As former Sen. Francisco Tatad said in his new book, "Power Without Authority," Reyes' "withdrawal of support" from President Estrada, using the name of the Armed Forces, violated three provisions of the Constitution and Republic Act 6968.

"Reyes' action tried to raise the crime of mutiny to the level of a constitutional principle," Tatad wrote. "It destroyed the constitutional order and the rule of law. It cannot be allowed to remain part of military tradition."

Then PNP Chief Panfilo Lacson also committed the same crime by withdrawing support from his president.

But "the success of the 2001 coup (or Edsa Dos) did not destroy the criminal liability of its perpetrators," wrote Tatad. "And it cannot be wiped away by the mere holding of new elections."

"Indeed, we could hold elections as scheduled in 2004," Tatad continued. "The voting could even be honest; the president could win by a landslide bigger than any nation had seen before. But if for any reason the president incurs the ire of the elite later, a small powerful group invoking precedent, could bring him down with the help of mutinous generals, conspiratorial justices and highly questionable jurisprudence. This need not happen to the next president. But it could happen to the next, or the next, or the next. The risk is self-perpetuating, the prospect completely open.

"A crime was committed against the Filipino people in 2001. It is a continuing crime. We just cannot do nothing. Injustice is tolerable only when it is necessary to avoid an even greater injustice. But a greater evil, not a lesser one, is likely to result if we fail to act on this one."

As ye sow

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

FIDEL Ramos has every reason to be pissed off at the suggestion that he is in part to blame for the recent coup. His sin being one of omission: He forgot to punish the mutineers during Cory's time, and so left the door open for future coups.

"I was faced with the same problems when I became president, but there never was an instance when the chain of command was threatened during my time for the simple reason that the process of dialogue remained open during my time."

Well, it goes a little deeper than that. I agree completely that the fact that the mutineers were made to do push-ups—metaphorically of course, some of them did time in Crame and elsewhere—left the germs of a dreaded disease in the pores of the body politic, like herpes, where they could hibernate before springing back to life and wreaking death again. But if that is true, why blame Ramos? Why not blame Cory? True, Ramos was the AFP chief and the defense secretary successively during that time. But Cory was the commander in chief, the highest post in the chain of command.

In any case, coups are not just administrative offenses, they are criminal ones. They do not just demand administrative sanctions, they demand penal ones. There is the justice system for that. The courts don't convict and sentence, you can't punish.

But even at that level, the problem goes deeper. In fact, it wasn't just that the coup plotters during Cory's time weren't punished at all, or as they deserved. It is that the human rights violators during Marcos' time weren't. Alfred McKoy would make a good point later on that many RAM officers were answerable for the torture inflicted on the group that even then was seeking redress from the Marcos estate through a class suit.

The reason they managed to elude prosecution and imprisonment was that they were hailed immediately after Edsa as among the country's liberators. Doubtless with no small amount of effort on the part of Ramos, Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan to propagate the myth. Ramos would swiftly make a claim on Edsa, as would Enrile and Jaime Cardinal Sin. To her credit, Cory never did, she was secure in her position. But Ramos' and company's mythmaking had much help from the citizenry themselves. As people were busy patting themselves in the back and singing "Magkaisa" and "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo," few thought to seek redress from the saviors. With reconciliation being the theme afterward, the transformation of the torturers—indeed of the entire military itself, which had been the *berdugo* of martial law—from heel to hero was complete.

But all that merely explains why there is little to deter coups: There is no great risk of losing life, or even career (Honasan is now a senator), to worry about. It does not explain why coups have become attractive again, or why they can be mounted again. It does not explain motive, opportunity and means, the elements of a crime.

Even Ramos' point about the channels of communication being open during his time doesn't explain it. Even if you grant it—which takes some doing, the levels of disgruntlement among the rank and file were just as epic then as now—dialogue by itself does not guarantee appeasement. As anyone who has been involved in labor disputes or strikes should know. The added implication of Ramos' statement of course is that during his time, the division of spoils was more reasonable, if not egalitarian. Which made for better "communication." But what is reasonable is not an absolute concept, it is a relative one. What is reasonable depends on what is being divided.

That is the difference between Ramos' time and GMA's time. Today, the spoils are awesome, courtesy of GMA's "war against terror." Indeed, the spoils are far more than monetary—though the monetary itself, in the form of a bigger AFP budget and increased US military aid, is already cause for restiveness—they are also, and deeply so, political. Unlike Ramos, and very like Cory, whose term was deluged by coups, GMA has made the military the most decisive element in national life. Indeed, she has turned them into the new saviors of society, the people keeping us safe from clear and present danger.

You have spoils like those, the officers are not going to be content with crumbs. Ramos is right to say that he should not be blamed for the mess GMA herself has created. But that mess is more than that she has closed the lines of communication between herself and her officers. That mess is that she has fanned the fires of ambition of the officers, while expecting them to behave like dutiful cannon fodder, for the *gloria* of God and country. She expects them, like the Light Brigade, not to reason why, but to do and die. Sorry, but no can do.

The problem is not that the officers do not understand GMA, it is that they understand her too well. It is not that she has given them too little, it is that she has given them too much. She has plucked them from obscurity, to which they had been consigned since Ramos embarked on peace talks with all the rebels; indeed, which made their existence a little embarrassing as they were left with no enemy to fight. She has provided them with their natural habitat, or environment, which is a culture devoted to extolling war and martial virtue. She has pulled the rug from under civilian supremacy by fomenting a state of emergency, if not national paranoia.

So why should they settle for a civilian?

* * *

Tonight is "Jam for Jovi" at 70s Bistro. If you come early, you might get some seats, or squeeze through the throng inside. All the bands are threatening to perform. Jovi would have liked that. Who knows? He might even forget he's dead and jam with them.

House's 'total approach' during rebellion

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia took exception to my comment that there was only deafening silence from the House of Representatives over the Oakwood rebellion. Far from it, he said, stressing that what the House took was a "total approach" to this problem. JDV said that some 136 members of the House were mobilized all through July 27, with about 60 of them appearing on TV and about 73 others in the provinces buttressing support for the government in their respective areas. Many of them, said JDV, made their own appeals to the military forces in their areas not to join the rebels. JDV stressed that he personally coordinated with Mayor Guico, president of the Municipal Mayors' League, Mayor Francis Tolentino of the City Mayors' League and Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario of the League of Governors, as well as the various political parties, for support for the government.

JDV recalled that he had lunch on Saturday, July 26, with President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Ramos, where GMA briefed them about the brewing problem. Afterwards he conferred with the ranking generals at Camp Aguinaldo where he sought added security for the Batasan compound for the President's Sona, which was to be held within the next 48 hours. Later that evening, he was with Jaime Cardinal Sin and they sought to seek support for the government; on Sunday morning, he appealed to the rebels to return to the fold of the law, recalling how he himself had made a number of mistakes in his life.

* * *

The government is in some kind of bind between upholding a "commitment" made to the rebel leaders during the negotiations in Oakwood, which is to subject them to a court martial; and the need to file charges against them in a civilian court if the full force of the law is to be applied. While charges have been filed against a number of civilians such as Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Laarni Enriquez, no charges have been filed as yet against the military rebels; but reports indicate that they will be prosecuted in a civilian court. The government is now said to be trying to forge a "road map" to avoid the prospect of the rebels' ending up in "double jeopardy," i.e., charged in both civil and military courts.

* * *

Charging military personnel before a civil court has basis in Article 134-A of the Revised Penal Code (RPC) which penalizes the crime of rebellion. On the other hand, military personnel accused of "service-connected" violations are accused in a military court. There seems now to be a concerted effort in the media to highlight the "double jeopardy" aspect as well as to get the rebels out of the coup d'etat bind by emphasizing that their mutinous action was a mere airing of "grievances." But as columnist Jose C. Sison argued recently in the Philippine Star, that grievance posture might really be consistent with their demands that they be tried only under the Articles of War, but their "every move and other pronouncements belie such protestations." As it turns out, he noted, "there is indeed a civilian component in that recent coup d'etat."

* * *

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez argues that there ought not to be a quarrel as the military officers can be tried simultaneously before civil and military courts under RA 7055. As Gonzalez explained it, RA 7055 amended the Articles of War in 1991 in order to strengthen civilian supremacy over the military after the failed coup attempt of December 1989. It provides that a military officer who commits an act punishable under the RPC such as a coup d'etat must be tried by a civil court. But Gonzalez also points out that if the offense is related to military service, such as being AWOL or deserting the ranks, this falls under the jurisdiction of the military court, and that there need not be "double jeopardy" as violations can be established under these distinctions.

* * *

These distinctions may explain the battle in the media to point out the difference between the terms "mutiny" and "coup d'etat," and the efforts to highlight the "grievances" of the rebels. These also explain the government's effort to build up the political component, such as highlighting the 15-member "council" that the rebels aimed to install, to show that July 27 was indeed a failed coup d'etat.

Gonzalez raised an interesting point: the rebels ought to be "grateful" they are being charged before a civil court, as Article 134-A only provides a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, whereas "mutiny" under the Articles of War is punishable by death. The curious point is, why do the rebels seem to prefer a military court? Could it be that they feel that it would be more lenient under the "old boys' club" principle? Or is it their way of rousing up sympathy in the military sector, by insisting that the government "reneged" on its "commitment"? Political pundits have warned that sympathy toward the rebels can be generated by this perception of a "double-cross," provoking more unrest.

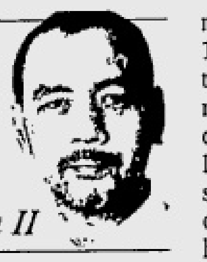
* * *

But was there a "double-cross"? There's a controversy as to what the government negotiators, led by Ambassador Roy Cimatu, committed. Indication is that in the heat of the negotiations, emphasis was made on subjecting them to the Articles of War, generally understood as a court martial. But it can be argued that, as Gonzalez noted, the Articles of War was amended in 1991. It's possible that government negotiators were not able to make this clear, or simply forgot about Article 134-A. But the law must be applied to the full. The law is the law.

Reminiscing Maning

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II



IT is at death that the tributes come pouring in. Someone once said that should not be so. Dead men are like bridges, he said. When they are around, we hardly advert to their existence. It is in their absence, when faced with the need to cross the river that we realize how special they had been.

Emmanuel N. Pelaez need not have that belated tribute. He was a tower in Philippine contemporary history, and was the most important Mindanaoan at one point of our past. He topped the bar in 1938, was first introduced into the Philippine political firmament in 1949 as a young congressman of Misamis Oriental and became a senator in 1953. In 1961, he was elected Vice President of the Philippines, the first Mindanaoan to hold the position. Then President Diosdado Macapagal designated him as the secretary of foreign affairs in a concurrent capacity.

In 1965, he returned to the House of Representatives, then to the Senate in 1967. Under Cory Aquino, for whom he campaigned in the snap elections of 1986, he was appointed Philippine ambassador to Washington, D.C.

Pelaez was all that, but what lingers most in our memory of him is his being the survivor of an assassin's bullet during the Marcos regime. The attempt on his life was made during his valiant fight against the controversial coco levy. Being a survivor of the harsh Marcos years made him larger than life. It was, in a way, his moment of heroism.

With a second lease on life, Pelaez became a renewed Catholic. I wish to believe that it was during this episode of his life when we saw the best of Pelaez. Under his newly found apostolate, he was chosen honorary president of the Philippine Bible Society. He became an advisory council member of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. His humanitarian involvement reached the NGO sector. He was chairman emeritus of Tulay sa Pag-unlad and was the founding chairman of Share Foundation Inc.

What lingers most
in our memory
of him is his being
the survivor
of an assassin's bullet

In his winter years, he continued to have that rare sense of affability and sharpness of mind. There was also one thing about him, a natural sense of humility. Not the kind that comes after going down a hill, but one seemingly borne out of realizing his mission in the world. Was he aware of his place in history? In a television interview, Pelaez exhorted his fellow Mindanaoans to remember their heritage and to strive to preserve it. And he was not just talking about the intangibles. His family ventured into a business that now includes a coral conservation program.

In a conversation I had with him last year, he recounted how the family home in Medina, Misamis Oriental was built by artisans under the supervision of a Japanese *maestro carpentero*. "I remember it was built by my father at about 1920-1922, because I was born in 1915. The wood materials were cut and chiseled by way of a *turno* right there." The Gregorio Pelaez house stands today as a local showcase of "historic preservation." It is a stately house, typical of the Hispanic-inspired stone and wood houses of the era. That conversation was probably the best recollection I had of the man.

Alas, irony comes after death. The city government of Cagayan de Oro now wants to name the controversial bridge and diversion road at the Huluga Heritage site in memory of Pelaez. What insensitive timing that the city mayor's alter ego should announce the plan during the necrological services last Thursday in Cagayan de Oro. Just the day before, the National Museum's research archaeologist, Sheldon Clyde Jago-on, announced that the city government's project had indeed damaged the prehistoric Huluga Open Site when it failed to comply with the Environmental Compliance Certificate requirements. Naming the project after him is certainly the wrong way to honor a man who was genuinely concerned with preserving heritage and historical legacy.

For Pelaez was more than that. He was after all, the Father of the City Charter of Cagayan de Oro which he legislated as Republic Act 521 on June 15, 1950. To use him now as a deodorizer for what is blatantly a project transgressive of a precious cultural heritage that belongs not only to Cagayan de Oro but also to the Filipino people is a sacrilege.

Oh yes, one more thing. Naming streets and bridges requires the participation of the National Historical Institute in the process. Pelaez would not have missed that. He stood for the rule of law. And the rule of law does not trivialize nor denigrate our heritage.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

God knows the truth, but waits

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

DEAN of the UP Law School, Raul Pangalangan reacted to my commentary "Is the Supreme Court infallible?" with a letter to the editor. He called to deny that he chickened out of a forum on Edsa II. So I promised to tell readers today that it was just a scheduling problem, not cowardice. He and Alan Paguia should organize things better and air their antithetical views for others to hear and judge. Mareng Winnie? Pareng Oca? What could it hurt?

For Pangalangan writes: *"In hindsight, in light of the recent coup attempt, the sustained campaign to discredit the Supreme Court was but the intellectual component to a military assault on our democracy."*

This wild speculation is ludicrous. I'm sure Raul regrets it. He's too implausible the fascist, and it would be too tedious for me to become a putschist now. But an awful lot of intellectualizing goes on in our democracy. What parts of it is he referring to? Just the ones he disagrees with? Or, is everyone intellectualizing about the Court part of a "military assault on our democracy"? It lacks integrity to suggest it, and it denigrates the reputation of the UP Law School to hear its dean profess it. (One hundred push-ups in front of the Oblation, please, while chanting the Bill of Rights.)

How little he must think of the Court itself to claim a sustained intellectual campaign, by two bit commentators like me, could so discredit the Court that, *"It would disable the Supreme Court from striking down a projected junta, a déjà vu of the Javellana decision (50 SCRA 30 1973) that legitimated Marcos martial law."*

He got Javellana wrong. Obloquy for the Court followed its cowardly capitulation to Marcos in 1973, not the other way around. But I'm glad he brought up how spectacularly fallible the Supreme Court really is. Here is Justice Isagani A. Cruz in his column (PDI 4/13/02): *"Before martial law, the Supreme Court was the most respected branch of the government, but it had earned the nation's opprobrium for cravenly submitting to the intimidations and blandishments of the Marcos regime. Its decisions during that timorous era consistently upheld the acts of the despot, reducing it to a spineless 'legitimizer' of his abuses."*

What may be on Pangalangan's mind is what happened at the end of martial law, not its beginnings in Javellana. Cruz tells how the Marcos judiciary was cleansed by Cory: *"The new government now quietly took steps to persuade the incumbent members to resign... The revered Justice JBL Reyes took the lead in talking to the justices with his 'mandatory' suggestion.... If there was any thought among them of invoking their constitutional tenure, that idea was quickly abandoned. The tide of popular indignation against them was too strong to defy."*

Pangalangan actually fears a "tide of popular indignation"—sometimes called people power—would discredit and disable the Supreme Court. But people power cannot be called forth by "legalistic formulae" or "inert rules mechanically applied." It is actually a deep mystery how people power is summoned and how its dark side can be suppressed. Even Jaime Cardinal Sin claims it's a miracle. But let me trace the Supreme Court through three "miraculous" regime changes in 1973, 1987 and 2001.

In 1973, the regime went from a democracy to dictatorship when the Supreme Court replaced the 1935 Commonwealth Constitution in Javellana with the 1973 Martial Law Constitution and Dictator Marcos replaced President Marcos. The people acquiesced, they said.

In 1987, the People Power Revolution of Cory Aquino "cleansed" the executive, legislative and judicial branches by replacing them with a new government, and the martial law charter with the 1987 Freedom Constitution. The regime went from "effective" dictatorship to democracy; President Aquino replaced Dictator Marcos.

In 2001, the Vice President automatically succeeded as President when the Court, on Jan. 20, 2000, created a vacancy in the presidency by telling Gloria to write a letter that Joseph Estrada was permanently disabled, so they could swear her in. Later they had to tortuously construe that Erap had effectively resigned because they could not defend permanent disability. The 2001 regime change was decided upon, created and consummated by the Supreme Court itself as a purposeful act to save the nation from chaos, the reason presented by Marcos when he declared martial law. And the people acquiesced, the Court said, like in Javellana.

In my opinion, the swearing in was the conspiratorial act of Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Cardinal Sin. It was the enabling act of Edsa II, the root of all its good and all its evil, whatever that proportion may turn out to be. Estrada is already on trial for his crimes. That's good by most accounts. But unless we uphold the principle of separate accountability from each constitutional officer, independent of the guilt or innocence of others, we can never "practice the law in the grand manner" so as to heal this nation as Gloria vowed on Rizal Day 2002.

But I confess. I have filibustered intellectually about Edsa II in this space, I have done so with the blood that courses through my veins—the blood of the original Dean Jorge Bocobo, the first Filipino dean of the UP College of Law (1917-34), in whose shadow I shall always dwell; and of JBL Reyes, my mother Teresita Reyes' cousin. I honor them not by abetting coups, but by exposing all the enemies of democracy and truth, 900 clumsy words at a time.

(God knows the truth, but waits, Count Leo Tolstoy, says. I display much less reticence at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/)

True nature of 'state of rebellion'

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

LIKE the first time President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a "state of rebellion" on May 1, 2001, questions have been raised about the nature and scope of a similar declaration she made in the aftermath of the July 27 mutiny.

Two cases are now pending before the Supreme Court questioning the authority of the President to make that pronouncement. The Senate is conducting its own probe into the issue in aid of legislation, according to the resolution authorizing the investigation.

The INQUIRER's report on the effects of such declaration caught the eye of lawyer Benjamin Gesmundo of Lipa City. He wrote: "I think there is something wrong with your news today [referring to the Aug. 6 issue] on the statement made by the wife of Sen. Gregorio Honasan that her husband will surface only if the state of rebellion is lifted.

"You wrote: 'The state of rebellion allows the government to arrest without a warrant anyone suspected of having a hand in the plot to oust the President.'

"Did Mrs. Honasan say that? If she did, you should have said that was the statement of Mrs. Honasan. The way I read it, the statement is part of the report of your own reporter and was not made by Mrs. Honasan.

"Who told you that a state of rebellion authorizes the government to make warrantless arrests? That's pure and simple baloney. Assuming there is such a thing as a state of rebellion, there is nothing in the Constitution that says that the provisions on arrest warrants are suspended during that period.

"You owe it to your readers to be accurate in your stories because being the most widely read newspaper in the country, we depend on you for information about what is happening around us."

Proclamation

For starters, let me say that the sentence in question was not a quote from Mrs. Honasan. If it were, the proper attribution would have been made. I learned that it was included in the news to serve as background information for her statements.

I agree with the reader's observation.

There is nothing in our Constitution, laws and jurisprudence that authorizes the President to disregard the rules on the arrest of crime suspects by the simple expedient of declaring a state of rebellion in the country or any part of it.

I checked Proclamation 427 of the President to find out if she has arrogated unto herself the power to effect warrantless arrests. The decree is silent on this point.

The pertinent provisions of the proclamation state: "I ... hereby confirm the existence of an actual and on-going rebellion, compelling me to declare a state of rebellion. In view of the foregoing, I am issuing General Order No. 4 in accordance with ... of the Constitution, calling out the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to immediately carry out the necessary actions and measures to suppress and quell the rebellion with due regard to constitutional rights."

Through the phrase "with due regard to constitutional rights," the President recognized that her proclamation cannot and should not be interpreted as suspending or setting aside the constitutional rights that are bound to be affected by her order.

Warrantless arrests

These rights pertain to the arrest and detention of crime suspects, search of private premises, monitoring of private conversations and opening of mails. If the President intended to grant the law enforcement authorities under her command unrestricted authority to use all means and measures needed to stamp out the uprising, she would have stated so categorically.

The lawyers who drafted that edict for her signature know that she would be committing a gross violation of the Constitution, an impeachable act no less, if she invokes the existence of a state of rebellion to justify the suspension of the existing rules on search, arrest and detention.

Thus, the proper search or arrest warrants have to be issued first by competent courts before the authorities can enter the premises or take into custody any of the people who are suspected of having participated, one way or the other, in the July 27 mutiny.

Of the same line of thinking is Justice Undersecretary Ricardo Paras who testified before a Senate committee that the President's proclamation did not curtail civil liberties, such as, allowing the warrantless arrest of people.

The long and short of it is: a state of rebellion is not in the same league as the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or declaration of martial law where the rules on search, arrest and detention can be suspended under certain conditions during the emergency situation.

Mistake

If, as claimed by some quarters, the houses of former Deputy Executive Ramon Cardenas and starlet Laarni Enriquez were raided on the basis of the "state of rebellion" without the benefit of search warrants, then the people responsible for those actions have reason to be worried.

They may not only lose the case because the search was conducted not in accordance with the law. They can also be held liable for violation of the civil liberties of Cardenas and Enriquez.

Going back to the reader's complaint, how did the paragraph in question get into the Aug. 6 banner story? From the explanation given to me by the editorial staff, it looks like the confusing discussion of the issue during and after the July 27 event had something to do with it.

The reference to the declaration and the veiled threats by law enforcement authorities to immediately arrest the politicians behind the mutiny gave the impression that the President had already authorized warrantless arrests. The opposition's repeated warnings about arbitrary arrests further fueled the mistaken belief that the proclamation had the effect of suspending the rules on arrest and detention.

In any event, the INQUIRER apologizes for the error. It regrets whatever adverse consequences the inaccuracy may have caused its readers.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Our damaged culture

NEAL H. Cruz in a recent column lamented that lately the Philippine Military Academy has produced a succession of disloyal rebel soldiers ready to depose duly constituted authorities. He concluded that something is terribly wrong with the PMA and that whatever is wrong with it, the institution needs immediate repairs. I have a different theory.

What needs immediate repair is our damaged culture, our perverted values as a people. Something is very wrong with a people who, instead of putting a coup leader behind bars, send him to the Senate. Something is obviously wrong with a people who, instead of holding grafters, tax evaders, torturers and rapists to account for their sins against society, send a number of them to Congress. Something is definitely wrong with a people who, coup after coup after coup, behave like the issues and grievances raised by disgruntled soldiers do not affect them at all and allow their government to get away with inaction. It is our sick society that needs to be cured with substantial doses of reforms.

The problem with the PMA is that it breeds idealists among a people who do not put premium on idealism. The cadet honor code compels the PMA cadet, on pain of discharge, not to lie, not to cheat, not to steal, not to take advantage of another and not to tolerate those who do. Invariably, PMA graduates, once out in the field, experience culture shock in varying degrees and are frustrated when they see people around them lie, cheat and steal, and find the many who don't tolerating the few who do. The majority of PMA graduates try to live with their frustrations and plod on, silently doing their share to improve things in their fields of influence. A few, like the Honasans and the Trillaneses among us, would try to refashion drastically our imperfect world even in ways that, regrettably, do more harm than good for the people they are sworn to serve. So what are we to do?

Please leave the PMA alone. It is not the problem. Instead, let us work to get the putschists in jail, together with their civilian instigators, to remind all that crime does not pay. At the same time, let us goad the government into finally addressing the soldiers' grievances.

There is no time to waste with another presidential commission making another investigation. The Oakwood issues are a mere rehash of those investigated by the Davide Commission in the 1990s in connection with Gringo's successive misadventures after 1986. All we need is to dust off the Davide report and get going before frustrations and disillusionment again set in—not only in the ranks of soldiers, but among the countless civilians who could be as demoralized now as our soldiers with the corruption, the inequities, injustices and unmitigated poverty in our midst.

—COL. LEONARDO O. ODOÑO
(Ret.), PMA Class of 1964,
19871 Willow St., Executive
Heights, Parañaque City

Look after UCPB's financial health

I AM very glad that Estelito Mendoza, lawyer of presidential candidate and business tycoon, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, has petitioned the Sandiganbayan to order the Presidential Commission on Good Government to give a report on the present financial condition of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

Being a small coconut farmer and owner of 54 UCPB shares of stock, I firmly believe that I am entitled to know the financial status of the aforesaid bank.

As pointed out by Mendoza, "unless the PCGG improved its running of the sequestered UCPB, the coconut farmers and the government could end up fighting over nothing."

Founded primarily with levies collected from the coconut farmers, it behooves the UCPB to give a full accounting of its finances.

—CRISOSTOMO B. VILAR,
vice chair, Cocofed (Coconut
Producers Federation
of the Phils.), Pagsanjan Chapter
and chair, Committee on
Agriculture and Environmental
Protection, Sangguniang Bayan
of Pagsanjan, Laguna

Not an absolute victory

THE SANDIGANBAYAN decision on the United Coconut Planters Bank shares bought with coco levy funds is not an absolute victory for the coconut farmers.

By force of Republic Act No. 6260, coco levy was collected from coconut farmers from 1973-1982 from their sale of copra to support and improve the Philippine coconut industry. The industry instead declined. But the collection is said to have built up a fund of P9.7 billion, which was used by Marcos cronies to purchase shares of stock in big commercial and industrial companies, among them, UCPB. Few people enriched themselves at the expense of the coconut farmers.

The coco levy funds should be treated and deposited as trust funds in favor of the coconut farmers. Even Danding Cojuangco, the respondent of the coco levy case, confirms that the coco levy funds belong to the more than one million coconut farmers.

—DODONG L. FLORES,
Hombrebueno Street, Poblacion,
Glan, Sarangani Province

What kind of leaders are we producing?

"WHAT kind of officers is the PMA producing?" was the title of Neal H. Cruz's column (PDI, 7/30/03).

Let me quote some significant points he raised when he wrote: "What has the PMA produced lately? A succession of disloyal rebel soldiers ready to depose duly constituted authorities and sow death and chaos in the country. Batch after batch of PMA graduates routinely take up arms against the government."

Cruz's opinion could have gone beyond the halls of the Philippine Military Academy, and would have read like this: What kind of leaders have we produced lately, in the last 16 years? Nothing, but a succession of selfish presidents from Aquino to Macapagal-Arroyo. All of them contributed to the chaotic state of our nation today. Their conflicting interests marginalized the Filipino people, whose taxes were routinely wasted by government officials.

If you question the products of the PMA, it would be much reasonable if you start questioning the product of Ateneo where President Macapagal-Arroyo comes from, or the University of the Philippines, the alma mater of many politicians, including Senate President Franklin Drilon.

To question only the PMA is like scratching the surface. Let me pose this question: Between the Magdalo Group and the Macapagal government, which has the integrity to wage a war against corruption? Is it GMA? Of course not. The events last July 27 solidified the people's long standing impression that this government is corrupt at all levels.

The Magdalo group took this country hostage for 17 hours, but that's mere dirt. The Filipino people, including you and me, have been held hostage by this corrupt system that only serves the interest of the elite. Try investigating our leaders.

Instead of the curriculum in the PMA, let's investigate the institutions that produce leaders like GMA and the curriculum that influences their shortsightedness, that compromises the interest of the people.

—TED ALDWIN E. ONG,
Phase 1, Block 5, Landheights
Subdivision, Villa Arevalo,
5000 Iloilo City

No thought for fisherfolk

WE did not hear from President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the-Nation Address the real socioeconomic status of Filipinos today, especially those of the three million fisherfolk families all over the country.

She mentioned that the prices of basic food items did not increase during her term. Be that as it may, the ordinary fisherfolk family of six members earning an average of P3,000 a month still live well below the present poverty line of P7,000. Assuming each family member needs to consume at least two cans of sardines per day at the price of P8.50 per can, the total cost in 30 days is P3,060—P60 more than the family's monthly earnings. This does not include yet expenses for basic needs, such as rice, house rental, light, water, education and health. Seen against this harsh reality, the President's remarks about low inflation and surveys showing less "self-rated" hunger are meaningless.

We also did not hear anything tangible in the Sona about education for basic sectors, like the fisherfolk. A typical child from a fisherfolk family never goes beyond Grade 5 due to lack of financial means and the high cost of education. Yet all that the President said is upgrading the teaching of Math and English, when millions of fisherfolk cannot even finish elementary education.

As for housing and security of residential tenure, the fisherfolk are among the least secure, living as they do in slums and on foreshore public lands over which they do not have any titles. The President did not specify the sector or the area that benefited from the "100,000 housing for the poor" that she mentioned. She also did not clarify the status of the "300,000 beneficiaries of residential tenure security," that is, whether or not the awardees include fisherfolk living on foreshore public lands.

Women are the ones who bear the brunt of poverty in fisherfolk households. Being a woman herself, the President should show concern for their plight and address the root issues in fisherfolk poverty which, sad to say, did not merit even a single word in her speech. These issues are the degradation of the country's coastal resources that has resulted in falling fish catch, the lack of government support for the municipal fishery subsector that is the cause of its persistent backwardness, and the continuing policy bias for export-oriented aquaculture (e.g., shrimp) and commercial fishing (e.g., tuna), which threatens long-term resource sustainability and the food security of millions of fisherfolk and local consumers in exchange for short-term dollar earnings.

The President cannot build a strong republic by ignoring these issues, simply because our nation cannot be strong if the fisherfolk—half of whom are women—remain poor, along with the majority of our people.

—EVANGELINE MAGBANUA,
president, Lambat-Kawil-Cavite,
Kababaihan sa Kilusang
Mangingisda Coalition,
91 V. Luna Road Ext.,
Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Taylor bids goodbye to Liberia

MONROVIA—Liberia's embattled president, former warlord Charles Taylor, was to say farewell Sunday to his war-weary people one day before handing over power to his vice president.

Aides to Taylor said the president would give a "valedictory radio address" at some point on Sunday, announcing his departure six years after the former rebel was sworn in as elected leader of his already war-wracked nation.

Most Liberians and international mediators hope that his resignation, and his eventual departure to exile in Nigeria, will take the heat out of Liberia's latest bout of civil war and allow peace talks to progress.

It comes as West African peacekeepers sought to raise their profile around Monrovia and persuade the rebel group Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) to relinquish control of Monrovia's harbor.

The city's Freeport is regarded by aid agencies as the country's key gateway for bringing in humanitarian aid, but it is out of use and occupied by LURD's guerrilla fighters, who have been besieging the capital for two months.

On Saturday, the Ecomil peacekeeping force was able to inspect the port, but it has not been given the go-ahead by rebels to deploy forces to secure it and re-open it to aid shipments.

Gen. Festus Okonkwo, the head of the Nigerian-led west African force, told AFP he postponed plans to meet LURD leaders on Saturday. US Ambassador John Blaney also cancelled a visit, US officials said.

Instead, a lower-level team led by Okonkwo's chief of staff, Ghanaian Colonel Theopholis Tawiah, and US military attaché Colonel Sue Ann Sandusky, toured the abandoned docks and looted warehouses of the rebel-held zone.

"The only obstacle is that Taylor should resign and leave the country," he told AFP.

Gregory Blamoh, the country head of the UN World Food Program (WFP), said the presence of the Ecomil at the port was vital for two reasons.

"First, the port is a point of contention and if the Ecomil were there, it would separate the two parties," he said.

"Secondly, the port is a source of food for the city," he said.

Three African heads of state are due to attend Monday's transition of power in Liberia when warlord-turned-President Taylor hands over charge to his deputy Moses Blah. *AFP*

Death toll rises to 11 in Jakarta hotel blast

JAKARTA—Fatalities from a hotel bombing in Jakarta rose to 11 on Sunday with the death of a taxi driver injured in the blast, and police said the suspected suicide bomber had stashed 50 kg of explosives at his home before the attack.

The driver had been waiting outside the hotel when the bomb went off Tuesday, said Adi, a spokesperson at Jakarta's Cipto Mangunkusumo hospital. Like many Indonesians, he uses one name.

Police said Sunday that Asmar Latin Sani—the alleged bomber whose severed head was found in the wreckage at the Marriott Hotel—had kept a cache of explosives at his house in the town of Bengkulu, about 250 km from Jakarta.

Investigators have uncovered the charred remains of a battery used in the bomb, Lubis said.

Indonesian authorities believe that the al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiyah may have been responsible for the hotel attack. *AP*

Militants rally for cleric

SOLO, Indonesia—About 3,000 Muslim militants rallied Sunday in the city of Solo to support detained Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, who allegedly heads the al-Qaida-linked group accused in the deadly bombing at Jakarta's Marriott Hotel.

Bashir, in a speech read by an aide, urged people at the rally to fight for the adoption of Islamic law and to ignore being labeled "terrorists."

Bashir, 64, is believed to be the founder of the Southeast Asian terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah. The group has been blamed for various attacks, including Tuesday's hotel blast.

Bashir is accused of masterminding a series of Indonesian church bombings in 2000 and an alleged plot to assassinate President Megawati Sukarnoputri. He has repeatedly denied involvement in terrorist acts and says Jemaah Islamiyah doesn't exist. He is currently on trial. A verdict in his trial is expected by October. *AP*

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Powell's thick intel file on Iraq now looks thin

(Editor's Note: The most detailed US case for invading Iraq was laid out last Feb. 5 in a UN address by Secretary of State Powell. Six months later, months of war and revelation, the Powell case can be examined in a new light, analyzed here by an AP Special Correspondent Charles J. Hanley who watched from a nervous, skeptical Iraqi capital.)

NEW YORK—On a Baghdad evening in February, in a stiflingly warm conference room high above the city's streets, Iraqi bureaucrats, European envoys and foreign reporters crowded before television screens to hear the reading of an indictment in New York.

In a hushed UN Security Council chamber, Secretary of State Colin Powell unleashed an 80-minute avalanche of allegations: The Iraqis were hiding chemical and biological weapons, were secretly working to make more banned arms, were reviving their nuclear bomb project. He spoke of "the gravity of the threat that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction pose to the world."

It was the most comprehensive presentation of the US case for war. Powell marshaled what were described as intercepted Iraqi conversations, reconnaissance photos of Iraqi sites, accounts of defectors and other intelligence sources. Since 1998, he told fellow foreign ministers, "we have amassed much intelligence indicating that Iraq is continuing to make these weapons."

In the United States, Powell's "thick intelligence file" was galvanizing, swinging opinion toward war.

But in Baghdad, when the satellite broadcast ended, presidential science adviser Lt. Gen. Amer al-Saadi appeared before the audience and dismissed the US case as "stunts" aimed at swaying the uninformed.

Six months after Powell's Feb. 5 appearance, the file does look thin. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told US senators last month that the administration of President George W. Bush had no "dramatic new evidence" before ordering the Iraq invasion. "We acted because we saw the existing evidence in a new light through the prism of our experience on Sept. 11," he said.

The US military, since overrunning Iraq, has found no weapons of mass destruction, and Bush's credibility has come under attack because his State of the Union address cited a British report that Iraq tried to buy uranium from Niger. That allegation, which Powell left out of his own speech, has been challenged by US intelligence officials.

How does Powell's pivotal indictment look from the vantage point of today? Powell has said several times since February that he stands by it, the state department said Wednesday. Here is an Associated Press review of major elements, based on both what was known in February and what has been learned since:

POWELL: Stands by US case for war against Saddam

Satellite photos

Powell presented satellite photos of industrial buildings, bunkers and trucks, and suggested they showed Iraqis surreptitiously moving prohibited missiles and chemical and biological weapons to hide them. At two sites, he said trucks were "decontamination vehicles" associated with chemical weapons.

But these and other sites had undergone 500 inspections in recent months. Chief UN inspector Hans Blix, a day earlier, had said his well-equipped experts found no contraband and no sign that items had been moved. Nothing has been reported found since.

Addressing the Security Council a week after Powell, Blix used one photo scenario as an example and said it could be showing routine as easily as illicit activity. Norwegian inspector Jorn Siljeholm told AP on March 19 that "decontamination vehicles" UN teams were led to invariably turned out to be water or fire trucks.

Audiotapes

Powell played three audiotapes of men speaking in Arabic of a mysterious "modified vehicle," "forbidden ammo," and "the expression 'nerve agents'"—tapes said to be intercepts of Iraqi army officers discussing concealment.

Two of the brief, anonymous tapes, otherwise not authenticated, provided little context for judging their meaning. It couldn't be known whether the mystery vehicle, however "modified," was even banned. A listener could only speculate over the cryptic mention of nerve agents. The third tape, meanwhile, seemed natural, an order to inspect scrap areas for "forbidden ammo." The Iraqis had just told UN inspectors they would search ammunition dumps for stray, empty chemical warheads left over from years earlier. They later turned four over to inspectors.

Powell's rendition of that third conversation made it more incriminating, by saying an officer ordered that the area be "cleared out." The voice on the tape didn't say that, but only that the area be "inspected," according to the official US translation.

Hidden documents

Powell said "classified" documents found at a nuclear scientist's Baghdad home were "dramatic confirmation" of intelligence saying prohibited items were concealed this way.

UN nuclear inspectors later said the documents were old and "irrelevant"—some administrative material, some from a failed and well-known uranium-enrichment program of the 1980s.

Anthrax

Powell noted Iraq had declared it produced 8,500 liters of the biological agent anthrax before 1991, but UN inspectors estimated it could have made up to 25,000 liters. None has been "verifiably accounted for," he said.

No anthrax has been reported found. The Defense Intelligence Agency, in a confidential report last September, recently disclosed, said that although it believed Iraq had biological weapons, it didn't know their nature, amounts or condition. Three weeks before the invasion, an Iraqi report of scientific soil sampling supported its contention it destroyed its anthrax at a known site, the UN inspection agency said May 30.

Bioweapons trailers

Powell said defectors told of "biological weapons factories" on trucks and in train cars. He displayed artists' conceptions of such vehicles.

After the invasion, US authorities said they found two such truck trailers in Iraq, and the CIA said it concluded they were part of a bioweapons production line. But no trace of biological agents was found on them, Iraqis said the equipment made hydrogen for weather balloons, and State Department intelligence balked at the CIA's conclusion. The British defense minister, Geoffrey Hoon, has said the vehicles aren't a "smoking gun."

The trailers have not been submitted to UN inspection for verification. No "bioweapons railcars" have been reported found.

4 tons of VX

Powell said Iraq produced four tons (3.6 metric tons) of the nerve agent VX. "A single drop of VX on the skin will kill in minutes. Four tons," he said.

Powell didn't note that most of that four tons was destroyed in the 1990s under UN supervision. Before the invasion, the Iraqis made a "considerable effort" to prove they had destroyed the rest, doing chemical analysis of the ground where inspectors confirmed VX had been dumped, the UN inspection agency reported May 30.

Experts at Britain's International Institute of Strategic Studies said any pre-1991 VX most likely would have degraded anyway. No VX has been reported found since the invasion.

Embedded capability

"We know that Iraq has embedded key portions of its illicit chemical weapons infrastructure within its legitimate civilian industry," Powell said.

No "chemical weapons infrastructure" has been reported found. The newly disclosed Defense Intelligence Agency report of last September said there was "no reliable information" on "where Iraq has—or will—establish its chemical warfare agent-production facilities." It suggested international inspections would be able to keep Iraq from rebuilding a chemical weapons program.

500 tons of chemical agent

"Our conservative estimate is that Iraq today has a stockpile of between 100 and 500 tons (90 and 450 metric tons) of chemical weapons agent," Powell said.

Powell gave no basis for the assertion, and no such agents have been reported found. An unclassified CIA report last October made a similar assertion without citing concrete evidence, saying only that Iraq "probably" concealed precursor chemicals to make such weapons. The Defense Intelligence Agency reported confidentially last September there "is no reliable information on whether Iraq is producing and stockpiling chemical weapons."

Chemical warheads

Powell said 122-mm chemical warheads found by UN inspectors in January might be the "tip of an iceberg."

The warheads were empty, a fact Powell didn't note. Blix said on June 16 the dozen stray rocket warheads, never uncrated, were apparently "debris from the past," the 1980s. No others have been reported found since the invasion.

Deployed weapons

"Saddam Hussein has chemical weapons . . . And we have sources who tell us that he recently has authorized his field commanders to use them," Powell said.

No such weapons were used and none was reported found after the US and allied military units overran Iraqi field commands and ammunition dumps.

Revived nuke program

"We have no indication that Saddam Hussein has ever abandoned his nuclear weapons program," Powell said.

Chief UN nuclear inspector Mohamed El-Baradei told the council two weeks before the US invasion, "We have to date found no evidence or plausible indication of the revival of a nuclear weapons program in Iraq." On July 24, Foreign Minister Ana Palacio of Spain, a US ally on Iraq, said there were "no evidences, no proof" of a nuclear bomb program before the war. No such evidence has been reported found since the invasion.

Scuds, new missiles

Powell said "intelligence sources" indicate Iraq had a secret force of up to a few dozen prohibited Scud-type missiles. He said it also had a program to build newer, 960-km-range) missiles, and had put a roof over a test facility to block the view of spy satellites.

No Scud-type missiles have been reported found. In the 1990s, UN inspectors had reported accounting for all but two of these missiles. No program for long-range missiles has been uncovered. Powell didn't note that UN teams were repeatedly inspecting missile facilities, including looking under that roof, and reporting no Iraqi violations of UN resolutions. *AP*

Coalition on lookout for Saddam fighters

BAGHDAD—Americans braced Sunday for more attacks, whether from Islamic radicals or loyalists of the old regime, as the coalition sought lessons from riots in the southern port of Basra over the lack of progress in rebuilding Iraq.

Two US soldiers were wounded at dawn by a roadside bomb near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, where the resistance against the Americans showed no signs of letting up.

The military also arrested three suspected Iraqi insurgents in an overnight raid following a mortar attack on a US base in the northern oil refinery town of Baiji.

Although the coalition says increasing numbers of Iraqis are coming forward with intelligence, soldiers complain, even in pro-US Baghdad neighborhoods, that Iraqis move quickly to hide evidence of attackers in the moments after an assault.

US officials have also downplayed their hopes for an end to the resistance that has so far claimed 56 soldiers' lives since the White House declared an end to hostilities on May 1.

In recent weeks, US overseer for Iraq, Paul Bremer, raised alarm about the threat of Islamic militants, notably al-Qaida and its alleged Iraqi subsidiary, Ansar al-Islam, even as troops close in on Saddam.

The dangers of radical Islam have taken on even greater urgency in the aftermath of Thursday's car bombing of the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad, which killed at least 14 in the deadliest attack of the post-war era.

On Saturday, Bremer mentioned Ansar to reporters but declined to name them as the chief suspect in the Jordan bombing. He also refused to rule out Saddam followers in the attack.

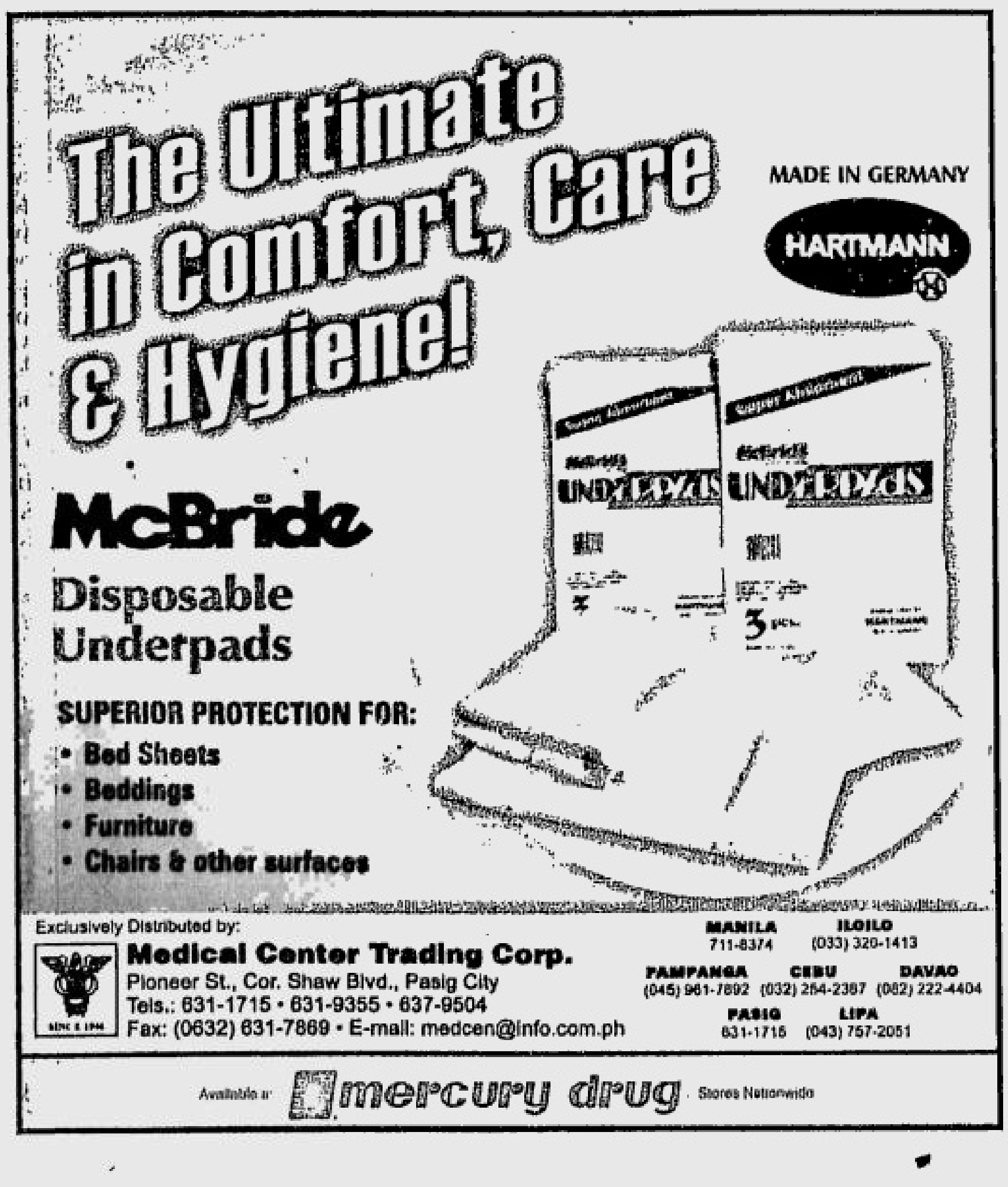
US soldiers picked up at midnight Ali Abdul Karim al-Madani, 48, the highest-ranking Shi'ite cleric in the Dyala region who had previously been jailed from July 2-4, his son Hasan Abdul Halim al-Madani told AFP.

Besides a small protest of 25 to 30 people outside Saddam Hussein's former palace, the streets appeared quiet.

At least seven soldiers and four Iraqi civilians were wounded in the melee. The rioting started minutes after witnesses said a grenade was hurled at a British military truck near a filling station, where Iraqis waited in a long line for fuel.

Gas prices have soared from 150 dinars (10 US cents) for 20 liters (5.3 gallons) to 12,000 dinars (eight US dollars) in a region rife with smuggling of fuel despite a renewed coalition effort to crack down on the illegal trade.

A British spokesperson blamed the rioting on the city's fuel shortages and a power blackout in parts of Basra, after an electricity station went down. *AFP*



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California circus: 158 bets sign up

LOS ANGELES—California's gubernatorial race formally kicked off Sunday, with more than 150 candidates reportedly in the running a day after the deadline for filing candidacy papers.

Movie tough guy Arnold Schwarzenegger on Saturday formally joined the colorful crowd of candidates, including porn king Larry Flynt, with less than two months to go before election day.

The Republican actor-turned-politician braved a circus of screaming fans and jostling reporters to put his name on the ballot for the increasingly bizarre Oct. 7 polls.

The former Mr. Universe body-building champion was flanked by his Democratic wife Maria Shriver, a member of the Kennedy clan.

A total of 158 people met Saturday's deadline, according to The Los Angeles Times.

Hustler magazine publisher Flynt, 61, on Friday submitted his check for $3,500 and a list of 65 supporters needed to qualify for the vote, officials told AFP.

Millionaire Republican businessman Bill Simon and independent candidate Arianna Huffington also registered in Los Angeles Saturday along with a host of wackier hopefuls.

But it is the "Terminator" who has become the star candidate to defeat the unpopular Davis. He has transformed a state election into a political carnival watched by the world. Analysts, however, say he could win on his celebrity power in a state that is the home to the movie industry and image manipulation, provided his campaign is not decimated by the media in the next 60 days. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Qantas a missile target

SYDNEY—Prime Minister John Howard on Sunday warned that Australia's national airline Qantas is a potential target for terrorists with heat-seeking ground-to-air missiles. Howard told Australia's Channel 9 TV that all Western embassies in the Indonesian capital Jakarta and places where Westerners gather in Indonesia were also possible terrorist targets. His comments came after a blast in Jakarta's Marriott Hotel on Tuesday, which killed 11 people and injured 146. Howard said concerns in the United States and Britain about possible terrorist attacks on commercial airlines prompted Australian authorities to launch intelligence-sharing talks with London, focusing on Qantas flights in and out of London's Heathrow airport. *AP*

Hottest weather in Britain

LONDON—Britain was, on Sunday, bracing itself for what could be the highest temperature ever recorded in the country's history as the current heatwave blanketing Europe sent the mercury soaring again. The chances of beating the 37.1 Celsius (98.8 Fahrenheit) recorded in Cheltenham, central England, in Aug. 1990 were "better than 50-50," meteorologists said. Sunday "could be the hottest day in history," said Michael Dukes of the PA Weather Centre forecasting bureau. Millions of Britons have been flocking to beaches, lakes and parks in recent days as the traditionally tepid summer weather heated up to levels more normally seen in Europe's far south. *AFP*

Prince William kills tiny antelope

LONDON—Prince William has demonstrated the British royal family's traditional fondness for blood sports by spearing to death a tiny antelope while on holiday in Kenya, it was reported on Sunday. The young prince faces criticism from anti-hunting groups after he took lessons from a member of the local Masai tribe and killed a 14-inch (36-centimetre) *dik-dik*, the Mail on Sunday said. William, second in line to the throne after his father Prince Charles, is also a keen hunter of foxes, a controversial pursuit which the British government is committed to outlawing. *AFP*

Learning safe sex from Kama Sutra

CALCUTTA—Prostitutes in Calcutta are turning to the Kama Sutra, an ancient Indian treatise on sex, to deal with customers who refuse to use condoms. A voluntary organization holding a safe sex workshop for prostitutes is using the book to teach them how to use methods other than intercourse with their clients in a bid to curb AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. The Kama Sutra "is a rich reservoir of techniques for a satisfying sexual experience without intercourse," Rajyashree Choudhuri, of the Institute for International Social Development, said Sunday. *AP*

Suspected meteorite misses boy

SYDNEY—A suspected meteorite narrowly missed a 10-year-old boy when it smashed into his driveway in southwest Australia, his mother said Sunday. Jennifer Elliss said her son, Anthony, was playing outside his home in Safety Bay, about 50 km south of Perth, on Thursday when he noticed an oddly shaped object in the sky about the size of a bird heading toward him. He ducked behind a car to avoid being hit, then watched as it smashed into their driveway and shattered, she said. *AP*

India PM calls for end to bloodshed

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—India's prime minister called for an end to bloodshed between Pakistan and India in a statement read out on Sunday before a peace conference in the Pakistani capital, saying the two nations must heed the will of their peoples and learn to live side by side as friends. "Violence and bloodshed cannot provide any solutions. We can live together only if we let each other live," Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in the statement, read out by an Indian delegate at the conference. "Cooperation, rather than confrontation, is the answer to our common problems." The conference, organized by a prominent journalists' group with branches in both countries, is the latest effort to ease tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors. It brings together Indian and Pakistani parliamentarians for two days of talks at Islamabad's Marriott Hotel. *AP*

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Corruption blamed for officer's death

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur—The July 27 mutiny in Makati City helped bring back memories of the late Army 2Lt. Jessica Chavez to her father Efren.

Efren Chavez, 46, said corruption in the military, one of the major issues that the mutineers have brought out during the foiled rebellion, could be the main reason that led to his daughter's death.

"The refusal of my daughter to take part in military corruption was the biggest reason that cost her life," Chavez told the INQUIRER.

Jessica, then 22, and a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 2000, was found dead in her barracks in Fort Bonifacio on Feb. 9, 2001. She succumbed to a bullet wound in the chest.

The National Bureau of Investigation ruled out suicide in Jessica's death.

Efren's wife, Milweda, said if Jessica were alive, she would have joined the mutineers.

"My daughter would have supported all fights to eradicate corruption in the military because she was very upright and idealistic," she said.

Efren said he could not forget his conversation with his daughter in December 2000 where Jessica hinted of problems while serving as a platoon leader and signal officer of the 191st Military Police Battalion in Fort Bonifacio.

He said Jessica told him that she was planning to resign and leave the service.

"I was shocked and could not understand why she was planning to leave the service," he said. Efren tried to ask Jessica her reasons for leaving but the latter refused.

Efren said he could not forget when Jessica turned to her framed graduation photograph at the PMA, and murmured in Ilocano, "I studied for four years and then I will be relegated to this job."

Efren said Jessica once told him that some of her senior officers, whom she did not identify, asked her to go to the South Harbor in Manila to pick up a shipment of firearms "from the South."

Jessica told her father that her mission was "unofficial."

Jessica's grandmother, Ernesta Manglioan, told the INQUIRER that her granddaughter once admitted to her that her superiors offered her a huge amount of money, supposedly her share from an unknown transaction, but she refused it.

On Aug. 14 last year, Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Marianito Santos of Rizal dismissed the criminal complaint against Jessica's superiors Maj. Ramon Dizon and Maj. Ricardo Visaya and Capt. Domingo Campos, and Private Mary Arvie Juanitas for lack of merit.

Efren said a complaint for "obstruction of apprehension and prosecution of criminal offenders" were filed against the Army officials after they ordered that Jessica's room be cleaned up immediately after she was found dead. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Guardians check members' loyalty amid factionalism

CALAMBA CITY—In the face of recent developments regarding the looming disintegration of their group, the national spokesperson of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI) yesterday called on their officers, members and sympathizers, to "close ranks and prepare against the impending mass witch-hunt unleashed by government agents."

In his "call to genuine brotherhood," Ernesto Macahiya also asked their brother Guardians to remain resolute and vigilant "to punish traitors, opportunists and deep penetration agents among our ranks."

Macahiya issued this statement in an apparent move for a loyalty check after ranking PGBI officers from Luzon signed a peace covenant with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes last Saturday.

PGBI vice-president Col. Virgilio Briones and Col. Romeo Lazo were present in the peace pact signing.

The two were among Sen. Gringo Honasan's co-accused in the coup d'etat raps filed by Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina before the Department of Justice.

"What brothers Lazo and Briones did doesn't speak for the whole organization. Only I alone can speak for brother Gringo and the PGBI. Our higher authorities never sanctioned what they have done. But they are not traitors," Macahiya clarified.

But he dismissed rumors that there is a rift among ranking officers and the 600,000 members of PGBI following the covenant signing.

He claimed the rumors have not slowed down their members in pursuing the National Recovery Program (NRP).

"The whole PGBI remains loyal to the visions of NRP and our chairman and president, Sen. Honasan. We are united despite government's attempt to ruin the group," Macahiya told the INQUIRER.

Purge

Although he seemed surprised with what Lazo and Briones did, Macahiya insisted that the PGBI Luzon chapter is still dedicated to the group and had not formed a faction, as some reports said.

"They never consulted us about the peace signing. But what they did, I think, was good for the whole PGBI because it only showed that we don't really have anything to do with the so-called Makati mutiny," Macahiya argued.

He added that the peace pact doesn't mean that their Luzon chapter has turned its back on them but a "proof that we were never against duly constituted authorities in the country."

He reiterated that Lina has falsely charged them of being "part of a grand conspiracy, along with the young reformist Magdalo soldiers."

When asked if they are open with similar peace covenant signing with the government, he answered, "We haven't imagined that happening soon. The ranking PGBI officers haven't also talked about it."

He admitted that some of their members have become "traitors" and took the opportunity to make money out of their situation.

"Mercenaries have no place in our group," he declared.

Macahiya said he received a call from Honasan just before the INQUIRER phoned him.

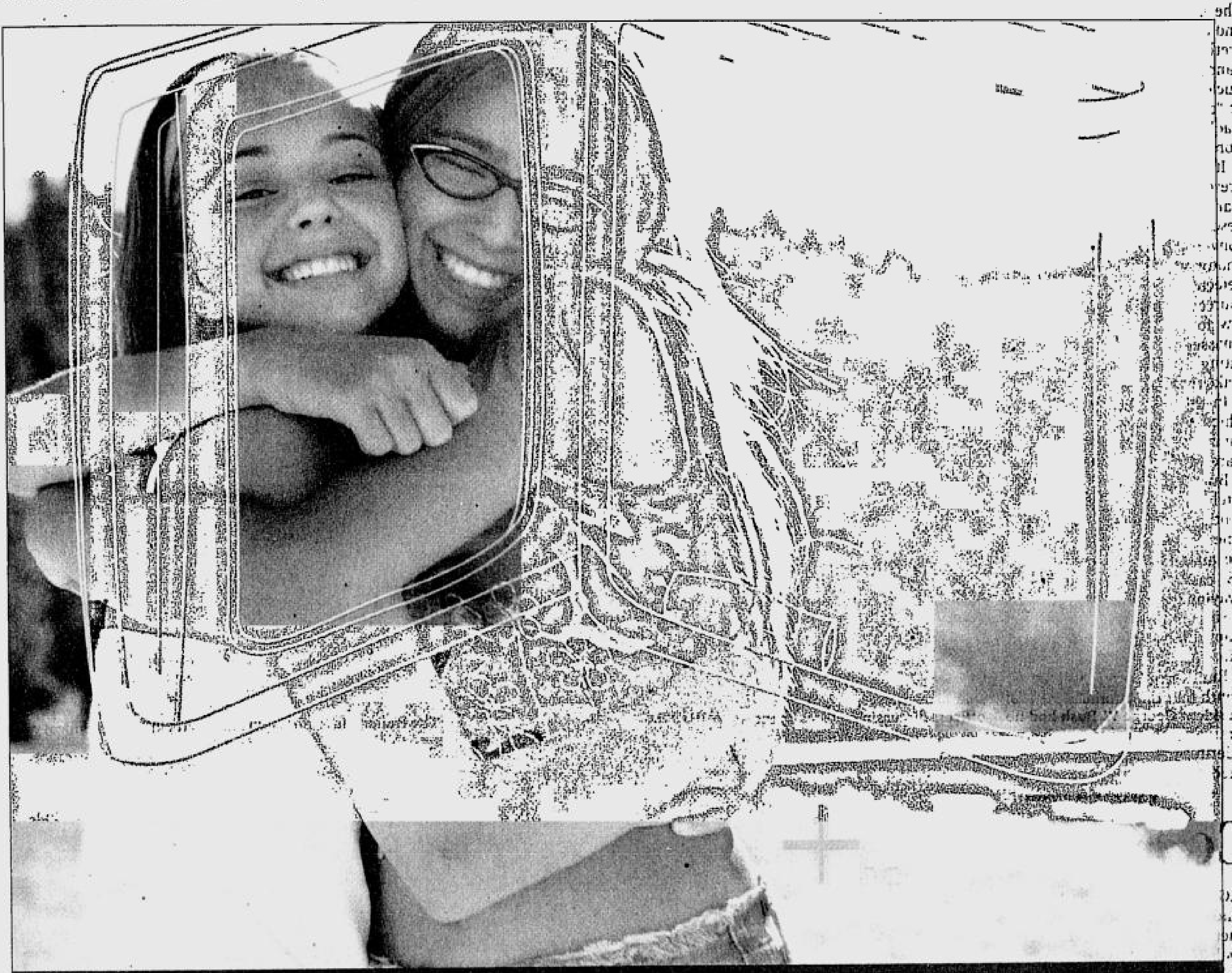
He said the senator had reminded them to "remain unafraid and expect the ill-effects of the witch-hunting activities of government agents against them."

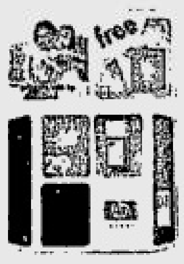
The embattled lawman again reiterated that he had not gone into hiding but "has only avoided warrantless arrest."

"We intend to expose and prove to the court (that) this monumental canard concocted by Mr. Lina and his corrupt and inept police and jail guard establishments (are false)," Macahiya said.

Macahiya alerted their members to "an open and vigilant mass mobilization against Sec. Lina's marauding policemen, particularly the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group agents."

He said they are already preparing their counter-affidavit, which they would present on Aug. 18 before State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*





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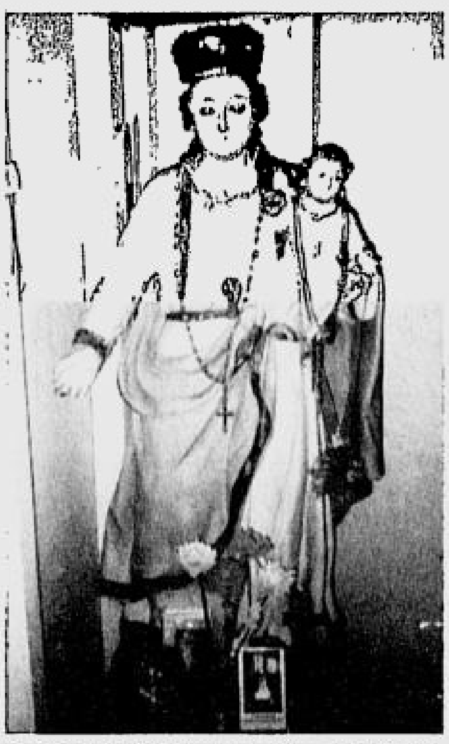
Forgotten ivory image of Lady of Piat found



THE ORIGINAL ivory replica of the Our Lady of Piat kept in the ancestral house of the late Cagayan Archbishop Teodulfo Domingo. ESTANISLAO CALDEZ

By Estanislao Caldez
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGGAO, Cagayan—The search for the forgotten 400-year-old original ivory replica of the image of Our Lady of Piat has ended in the rustic village of San Jose in this town, some 60 km from the capital of Tuguegarao City.

Through the help of Msgr. Samuel Baculi, Baggao parish priest, and Rev. Fr. Constancio Floria, the priest assigned in the village, the image was traced to the ancestral house of the late Cagayan Archbishop Teodulfo Domingo.

The four-foot high image is kept on an altar in the house under the care of Dionicia Carmona, the archbishop's sister.

Church officials and religious workers in Cagayan started to revive interest on the search for the original ivory image of the Our Lady of Piat after listening to a lecture by Rev. Fr. Eladio Neyra of the University of Santo Tomas.

Neyra, in his lecture during the Aggao nac Cagayan celebrations in June, said the missing ivory image, which had a lighter skin tone, was a replacement for the original dark-skinned image done in papier-mache almost 400 years ago.

Neyra said the original papier-mache image of the Our Lady of Piat was created by a sculptor in Portuguese Macao in early 1600.

He said historical documents showed that the image was taken in 1604 to Piat, Cagayan, then under the old Diocese of Nueva Segovia, to pacify the natives, who had killed Spanish settlers in the town.

Neyra said there were "confusing" reasons offered on the dark skin tone of the image. Among these were the materials used in creating the image or the sculptor's desire for the image to look like the dark-skinned Ibanag folk.

Neyra said accounts revealed that a missionary in Piat took the image to Tuguegarao to have it copied in ivory. The missionary brought the new image to the town thinking that the natives would like the image, which had a lighter skin, he said.

However, the missionary was forced to return the original image when the natives demanded for it and rejected the new image cast in ivory.

Accounts said no one knew where the ivory image was taken and the Cagayanos had forgotten about its existence.

Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan said the image was found in Barangay San Jose in 1947 when Domingo, a devotee of the Our Lady of Piat, was a newly ordained priest in the town.

Talamayan said churchgoers were surprised by the loud bleating of goats around a heap of garbage in the village every morning.

A resident investigated and was surprised to discover the chipped ivory image among the pile.

Talamayan said the resident immediately informed Domingo of the find. Domingo retrieved the image and spent his own money to restore it.

Domingo and his family have acted as the image's custodians since then. Carmona said the image has been considered the family's patron and protector.

She said Domingo, before he died on June 3 last year, entrusted the image to her.

Carmona and her daughter, Dr. Emelie Carmona, are asking Catholic Church officials in the province to allow them to keep the image, saying it was Domingo who spent for its restoration and took care of the image.

But Talamayan said he planned to talk to the Carmonas and ask them to return the image to the church because it was considered a church heirloom and an important part of the church's history.

Talamayan said Domingo only borrowed the image from the church.

The Catholic Church will celebrate the quadricentennial of the arrival of the Our Lady of Piat in Cagayan next year. It has formed a research committee to confirm how the image was taken to Piat through the Cagayan River.

Pageant seeks to raise hopes for Bicol maids

NAGA CITY—Bicol is holding its first "Maid in Bicolandia" beauty pageant, which hopes to make housemaids reach for the stars.

Anton Prieto, pageant committee chair, said this year's working committee for the regional week-long Peñafrancia fiesta has already officially included, for the first time, the holding of "Maid in Bicolandia 2003," a beauty contest for domestic helpers.

Prieto said the content hoped to inspire maids to show off their talents and potentials and to dream for a better life.

He appealed to employers to allow their maids to join the contest.

Rehearsals and practices have been scheduled at night so as not to affect the contestants' work at home, he said. "The cooperation of the employers is very important because without (this) they might not permit them to join."

The pageant is open to all female Bicolana househelps between the ages of 18 to 25 years old, single, and have never been mothers.

Even those working abroad can join, he said.

Interested contestants should first secure permission from their employers and certification of employment as housemaids, and that they have been allowed to participate in the practices and rehearsals.

Prieto said applicants should have been employed as maids for at least three months.

The winners will receive cash prizes, plus products, he said.

The Miss Bicolandia will get a P15,000 cash prizel the first runner-up, P10,000; second runner-up, P7,000; and third runner-up, P5,000.

Special awards for Miss Talent, Miss Photogenic, Miss Friendship, Best in Long Gown and Best in Sports Wear will also be given.

All winners will be given various products as additional prizes.

There will be no swimsuit competition among the contestants.

In the question-and-answer portion, Prieto said the contestants would be asked about household chores.

Entertainment personalities, like Bayani Agbayani, will be invited to attract an audience, Prieto said.

Pageant night has been set for Sept. 14.

Prieto also allays fear of Bicolanas being typecast as Tsimays (maid).

"What is important now is to give them (maids) the time and chance to express their dreams in life," he said. *Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Pancit' festival in Tuguegarao

TUGUEGARAO CITY—This city will hold the first *pancit* (noodle) festival on Aug. 15 to highlight its residents' fondness for the local dish.

Mayor Randolph Ting, who will lead the staging of the festival, has ordered several vats to be used in the cooking festival that will be held on the eve of the city's feast day.

Cooks of several *panciterias* (noodle eateries) in the city will gather on the patio of the St. Peter's Cathedral for the festival. The city government has ordered about 500 kilograms of specially kneaded *miki* (raw noodles) that will be distributed for free to the cooks who will prepare them according to their preferred recipes.

Cagayano and Ibanag folks relish *pancit* because it is a cheap and nutritious alternative meal.

Ibanag *pancit* in the city was offered by old *panciterias* like Berto, Olympia and Balao, which have stopped operations and yielded to new eateries offering different *pancit* varieties.

Among the kinds of *pancit* offered by the city's eateries are *pancit seco, pancit con caldo* (with soup), *pancit guisado, pancit con igado* and *pancit con huebo*, a noodle dish with eggs. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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2 NPA rebs held by rival group

BACOLOD CITY—Two alleged hit men of the New People's Army were captured by members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) following renewed fighting between the two rival communist factions in Sitio Alimatok, Barangay Villacin, Cadiz City on Friday.

The hour-long battle erupted two days after suspected NPA members ambushed and killed three Army soldiers in Canlaon City in Negros Oriental.

Carapali Lualhati, RPA-ABB chief, on Saturday confirmed that his group was holding the two alleged NPA assassins and had recovered a .45 cal. pistol and a super .38 cal. revolver from them.

But Lualhati said the RPA fighters had difficulty trying to outmaneuver the platoon-sized NPA group that had used civilians as "human shields" while fleeing from the encounter site.

The NPA unit, was said to be led by a "Ka Nonoy." *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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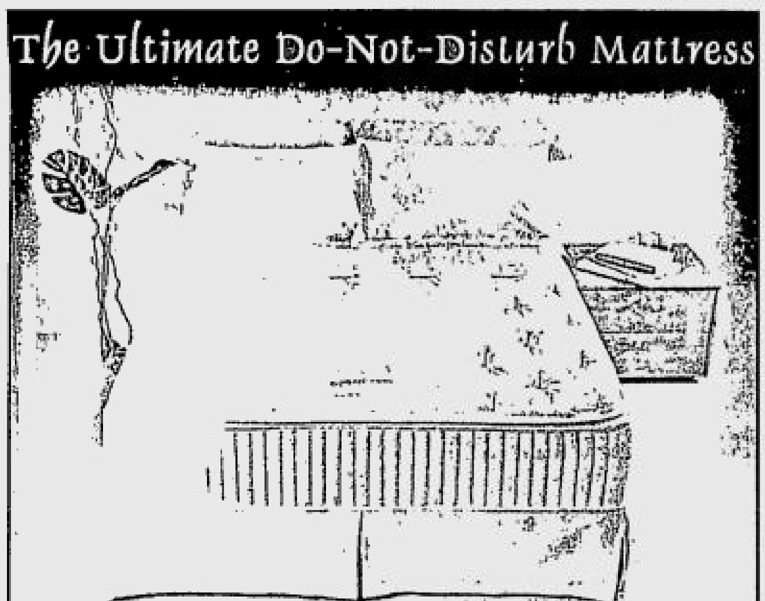

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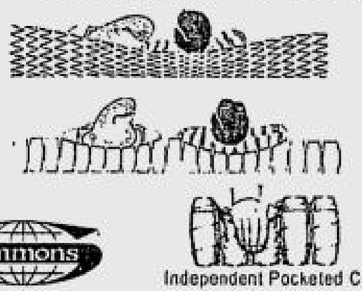

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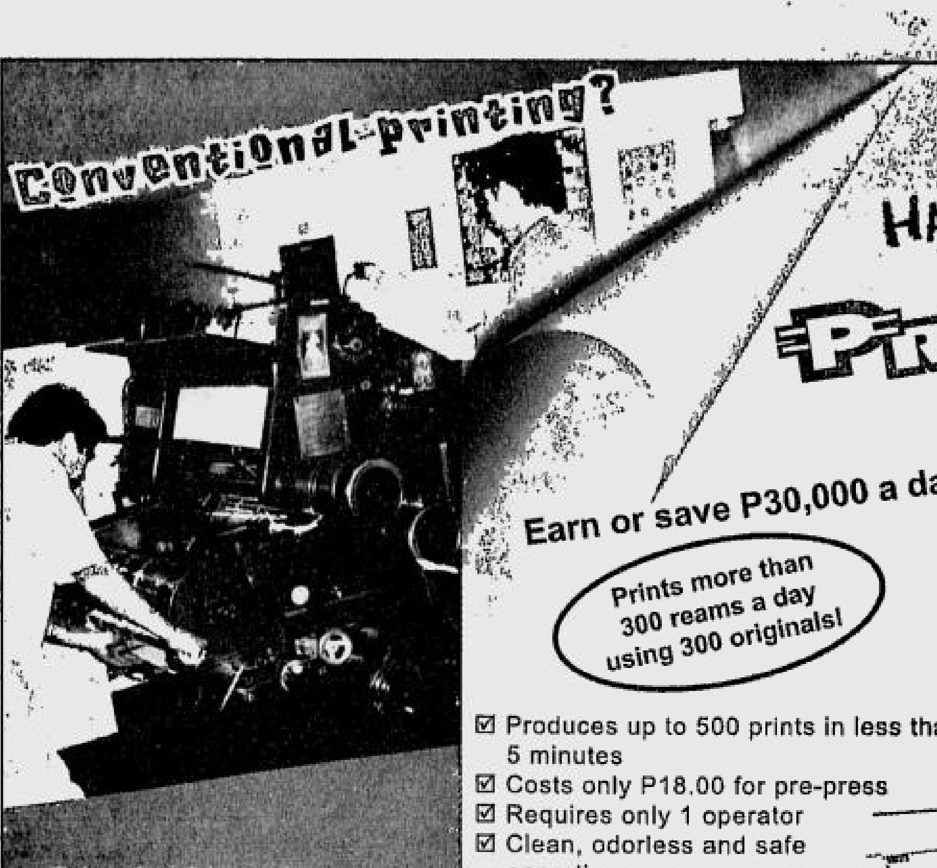

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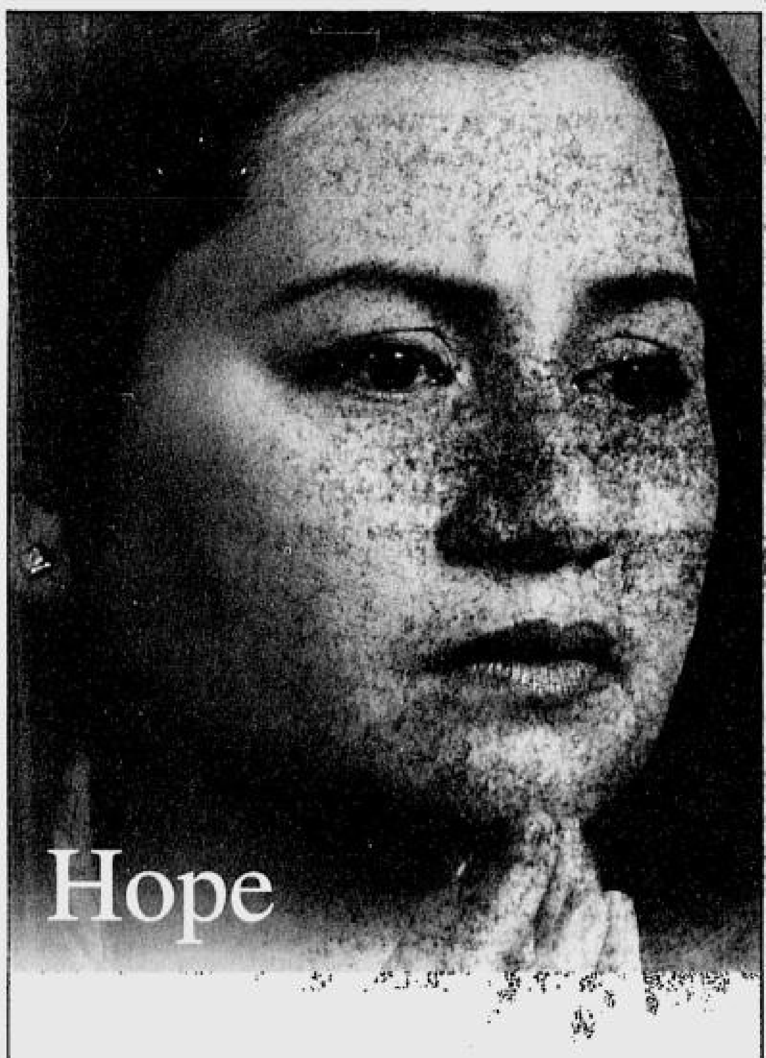

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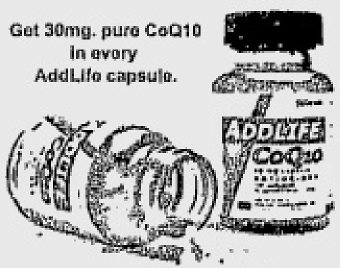

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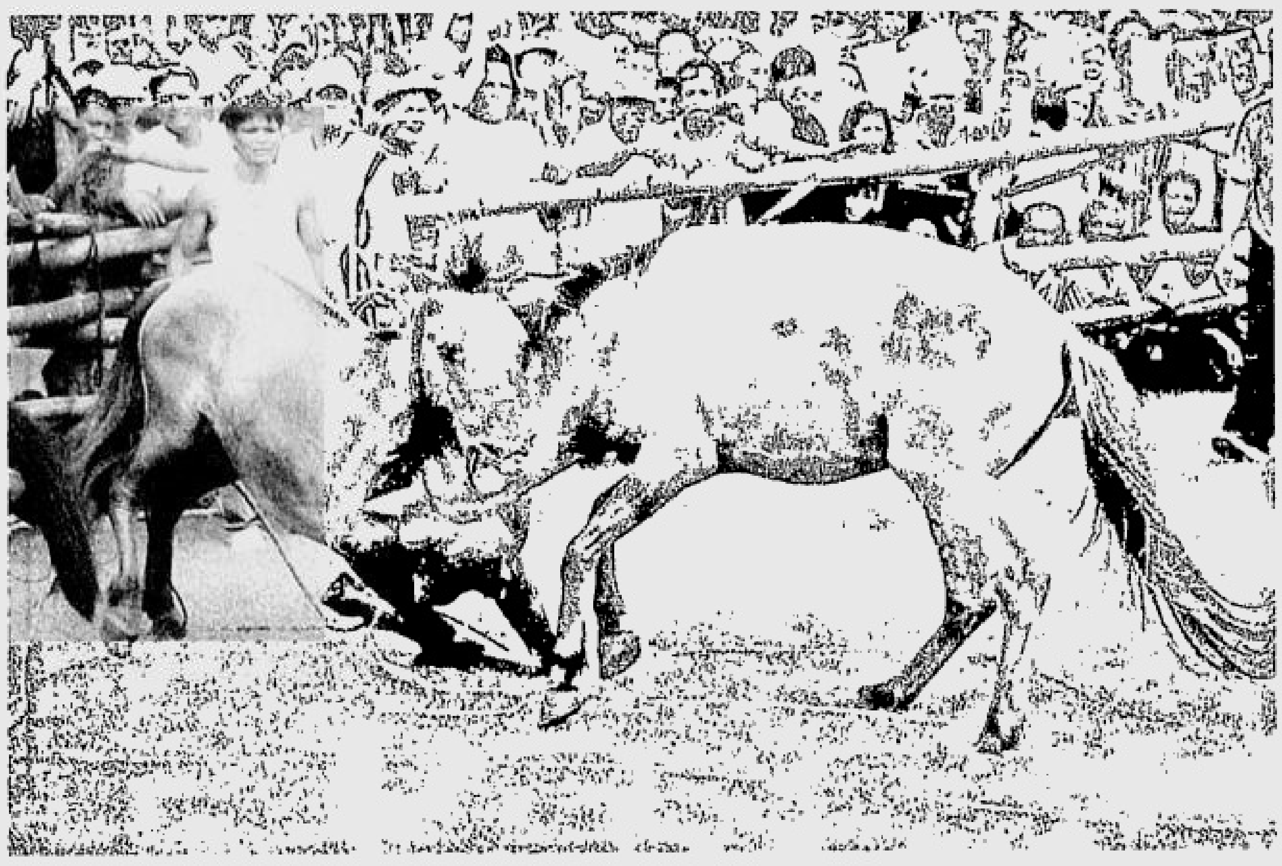

PANGAPOG FEST

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Horsefighting is among the highlights of the 5th Pangapog festival celebration of the Island Garden City of Samal.

Japan agency helps restore lahar-damaged farmlands

IBA, Zambales—The Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) has conducted an agriculture development research in lahar-covered areas in Zambales to rehabilitate damaged farms and make them suitable for crop production.

Jica officials said they have already studied the condition of the affected areas and identified measures to initiate agriculture development.

"For agricultural development to be mobilized, we must first recognize the problem as not only a soil problem. It is foremost an ecosystem problem with physical, biological, social, economic and political dimensions," said Shinsuke Hino, Jica study team leader for the project "Sabo and Flood Control in the Western River Basins of Mt. Pinatubo."

The project also aims to recover the livelihood of affected residents, an important component of its master plan, Hino said.

Mt. Pinatubo's violent eruptions in 1991 spewed out pyroclastic materials and thick deposits of lahar that covered farmlands in Central Luzon.

The Jica officials have proposed various strategies to restore agriculture in Zambales.

These include scraping of lahar deposits using bulldozers and deep plowing through farm tractors. Areas now planted will be cleared manually and plowed continuously to mix lahar with old soil.

They said different strategies to improve the soil could be used to rehabilitate lahar-damaged farms, such as the addition of organic and inorganic fertilizers.

Watermelon, garlic, onion, sweet potato, "direct-seeded" rice and cassava were found to be suitable in lahar-covered farms, according to Jica's research.

The research group also recommended a high rate of fertilizer application to get the maximum yield potential of the crops.

"Product storability and marketability should also be major concerns considering that most of the farms are distantly located," Jica officials said.

"With the joint efforts of the local government units, concerned government agencies and research institutions, we are very confident that agriculture will be restored in Zambales," Hino said. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Samareños rally for stop to operations of mine firms

By Eden Cidro and Cyrain Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

CATBALOGAN, Samar—They came in cars, trucks and motorcycles. People from the three provinces of Samar took time off on Friday, as all roads led to Catbalogan, for the Save Samar Island Caravan.

Participants were in high spirits, unmindful of the long trip, as they passed by schoolchildren and adults alike, lined up along the stretch of the Maharlika Highway, chanting "No to Mining, Yes to SINP," or the Samar Island Natural Park.

It was an unprecedented show of unity by Samareños as it transcended political, social and religious persuasions.

Government officials, Church leaders, non-governmental organizations, farmers and fisherfolk, the academe, and the youth from the three Samar provinces came together to heed the call of their bishops.

That the unity was evident, was expressed more aptly by Samar first district Rep. Eduardo Nachura, who said "today, we decided to reject the legal and natural boundaries that divide Samar Island into three political subdivisions. Today, there is only one Samar, and we are pushing for one interest—the interest of the Samareños."

The caravan was made possible through the concerted effort of Church, government and NGO leaders. It was intended to get the support of Samareños in the campaign against environmental degradation.

It was also a call to Malacañang to hasten the proclamation of the SINP, and to stop mining operations in the island.

There are two Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA) between the government and two mining companies, the Alumina and Bauxite Resources Inc. Both are inside the proposed SINP. There are also 40 mining permit applications in the whole island.

Former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, to the dismay of Samareños, approved the MPSAs for the two mining firms inside the proposed park on Dec. 5, 2002.

That same year, the San Jose Timber Corp. wrote Alvarez to lift the logging moratorium of 1989 to pave the way for the resumption of its operations. San Jose Timber and another logging firm have Timber License Agreements (TLAs) until 2007.

There were 17 TLAs before the logging moratorium. There are now 41 mining companies with pending applications in the whole Samar Island.

Three bishops—Jose Palma of Calbayog, Leonardo Medroso of Borongan and Angel Hobayan of Catarman, two governors—Clotilde Japzon-Salazar of Eastern Samar and Milagros Tan of Samar, three congressmen—Nachura, Marcelino Libanan Jr. of Eastern Samar and Reynaldo Uy of the 2nd district of Samar, and mayors led the hundreds of Samareños who joined the caravan.

Town's petition vs mining firm's entry into Kennon Road junked

BAGUIO CITY—The residents of Tuba, Benguet lost the first round in their fight to prevent a mining firm from accessing land along Kennon Road and portions of the Philippine Military Academy reservation.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has junked their petition against the issuance of a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) to the Northern Luzon Exploration and Mining Co., a joint venture of Philex and S.V.R. Mining Exploration Corp.

Gerardo Brimo, Philex chair, recently sought the MPSA's conversion into an exploration permit.

Tuba Mayor Jose Baluda, members of the municipal council, Camp 4 residents of Kennon Road, and members of the Kennon Road Aggregates, Sand and Gravel Livelihood Association, opposed the MPSA in January.

They cited the impact of the mining operations of the defunct Benguet Exploration at the Black Mountain District on their water sources.

"The Bued River was once a fishing place for the (Tuba residents). When the mining companies began to operate, the river became polluted. Fish could no longer be seen and the water became unsafe for residents who used to swim and live nearby," one petition said.

They also complained about Philex's proprietary ascendancy over aggregate haulers now mining Kennon Road for sand and gravel.

Val Carantes, owner of an aggregates crashing plant along Kennon Road, said Brimo has offered to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to mine sections of PMA under a joint venture deal.

Between the PMA reservation and Kennon Road, Philex has a new area for development once it winds up its underground operations, Carantes said.

But arbitrators from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau said that Tuba's fears about an ecological disaster were "abstract and anticipatory and not ripe for determination."

"In view of the conversion of the MPSA to an (exploratory permit application), the perceived environmental damages must now be related to the exploration activities of (Philex). The Philippine Mining Act of 1995 clearly defines 'exploration' . . . as prospecting for mineral resources by geological, geochemical or geophysical surveys, remote sensing, test pitting . . . and drilling," said the resolution written by MGB executive Eduardo Austria and DENR lawyers Romeo Bravo and Jerry Marave.

"However, the fact that mineral exploration is not covered by the environmental impact assessment process . . . manifests that such activity cannot cause the environmental damages perceived by the petitioner," the resolution said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DPWH debt to contractors down to ₱4.6B

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The debt that the Department of Public Works and Highways owes various private contractors in the country had dropped from P9.1 billion to P4.6 billion.

This decrease came after the Department of Budget and Management released P4.5 billion to the DPWH recently, according to acting Secretary Florante Soriquez. Contractors, Soriquez said, were being paid on a first come-first served basis.

He said the debt piled up over the years due to delayed cash releases from the government. He did not identify the regions where the DPWH has bigger debts to settle.

For upcoming contracts, the National Constructors Association of the Philippines (Nacap) and the Philippine Contractors Association (PCA) urged Soriquez to adopt the "rediscounting scheme.'

Willy Castor, Nacap president, said the scheme allows the contractors to obtain loans from the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines and the National Development Corp. at interest rates of 4 percent per annum.

The scheme applies only to contractors who won bids for projects with allotment orders. The loan allows the contractors to implement the project on time while they await cash releases from the government, Castor said.

The DPWH guarantees the loans, he added.

Soriquez said the scheme was still being studied. He had, however, agreed to the recommendation of Nacap and the PCA to create a board to check on "defective contracts."

Comprised of the DPWH, Nacap and PCA representatives, the board is chaired by DPWH Assistant Secretary Raul Asis.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Swindlers stalk victims with innocent questions

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—"Do you know where I could buy a water purifier?"

This seemingly innocent question was actually the opening line of a group of swindlers who had been eyeing Myla Cariit, 22, of Larena, Siquijor.

Cariit had just obtained her passport from the OrientWind Travel Agency in this city that Thursday morning when she was approached by three women near Lee SuperPlaza, who asked her the "Where-can-I-buy . . ." question.

Cariit told the women that she did not know of a store that sold water purifiers, as she was not from the place. However, the three women, instead of leaving her alone, stayed with her.

After a few minutes, the suspects convinced Cariit to allow them to use her backpack to store some of their belongings for safekeeping while they would also go inside the supermarket. Cariit also placed her cellphone, jewelry and P20,000 cash in the backpack.

Cariit gave the women her backpack, especially after she was given a bag by the women, which supposedly contained P150,000. She brought the small bag inside the store and waited for the three women who were supposed to leave her backpack at the baggage counter at the supermarket lobby. They never showed up.

When she opened the small bag, instead of finding P150,000, she found only crumpled newspapers and rubber bands.

The three women struck again the following day about the same time and place. The victim, Fidela Tano, 66, of Lower Camanjac, Dumaguete City reported that she lost her necklace, cellphone and P10,000 cash to the swindlers, who asked her where they could buy a certain commodity.

According to Supt. Constantino Barot Jr., director of the Philippine National Police in Negros Oriental, these swindling incidents could not be helped especially if the victims could not pinpoint who the suspects were.

Furthermore, he said the victims could partly be blamed since they were eager to transact business with strangers.

TERRITORIAL ROW

SolGen says Kalayaan not part of Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—"If Kalayaan is not part of Palawan, where is it? China?" This was the question posed by Mayor Rosendo Mantes of Kalayaan, the 21st in the 23 municipalities of Palawan and which is now considered by the Solicitor General's Office as outside the Palawan territory.

Kalayaan is located in the contested Kalayaan Group of Islands (KIG).

The SolGen Office's comment was made in response to the petition for declaratory relief filed by the provincial government to settle the ownership of Malampaya.

The SolGen—which represents the Department of Budget and Management, Department of Finance and Department of Energy—said the island municipality of Kalayaan never became a part of Palawan despite a Presidential Decree that created it.

It reasoned that PD 1596, which was declared by then President Ferdinand Marcos in 1978, had legal infirmities. According to the comment, PD 1596 did not go through the required constitutional process because it was promulgated in 1978 when the 1973 Constitution was already in effect.

"Under such Constitution, the rule on the creation of municipalities is found in Section 3, Article XI of the 1973 Constitution: No province, city, municipality or barrio may be created except in accordance with the criteria established in the Local Government Code, and subject to the approval by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite in the unit or units affected," said the SolGen.

The comment added that no plebiscite had taken place since then.

The territorial issue was raised when the provincial government cited in its petition at the regional trial court that the national government should recognize Palawan's share over Malampaya, which is even nearer the provincial center than Kalayaan.

Malampaya is about 80 km from the Palawan coastline while Kalayaan is about 270 nautical miles.

Mantes said it is so illogical for the SolGen to think that way.

He pointed out that recent events had already superseded the plebiscite requirement.

Since Kalayaan was created in 1978, there was already a set of elected local officials in the island.

They have been receiving internal revenue allotment amounting to P17 million this year from the DBM.

He said the transitory provisions of the 1987 Constitution makes Kalayaan part of Palawan.

He added that Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo, former Commission on Elections chair, should be the one to know that Kalayaan is a municipality of Palawan because there have been legitimate elections there in the past.

Last June 11, Kalayaan celebrated its 25th founding anniversary where no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo, National Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho gave their recognition by sending greetings to their commemorative anniversary book, added Mantes.

Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Countdown for justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 455 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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ROUNDUP

Award for co-op

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—The partnership between citrus farmers and the provincial government was recently adjudged the country's most outstanding collaboration by the national government for 2003. The Malabing Valley Multi-Purpose Cooperative, whose members produce the renowned Vizcaya oranges, bested four other cooperatives to win the best partnership with a provincial government category in this year's Cooperative-Local Government Unit Partnership Awards. Other winners are the Soro-Soro Ibaba Development Cooperative of Batangas City and the Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Pinamungahan, Cebu for the city and municipality categories, respectively.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Explosives found

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Explosives recently recovered by policemen and soldiers in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, last week belonged to the New People's Army, a report said. "These were planted to victimize government troops whom they expect to conduct clearing operations after an encounter last July 18," Senior Supt. Luisito Palmera, Nueva Ecija police director, said. The 308th Provincial Mobile Group and the 71st Infantry Battalion recovered the improvised bombs in Sitio Pinahan on July 31.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

3 killed in clash

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac City—Two suspected New People's Army rebels and an Army soldier were killed in an encounter in Mt. Province on Tuesday, military reports said. In a press statement, Lt. Col. Preme Monta, spokesperson of the Army's Northern Luzon Command, said Edfew Dedya-as, who belonged to an NPA unit operating in the province, was killed in an encounter in Barangay Sacasacan, Sadanga town at 6 a.m. Tuesday. In succeeding gun battles in Barangay Mainit in Bontoc town, Cpl. Richard Pattaguan of the Army's 53rd Recon Company and an unidentified rebel were killed, reports said. Monta said the NPA units were led by one Ka Ritchie and Lupito Wigit.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop shot by nephew

SAN RAFAEL, Bulacan—A policewoman was wounded after she was accidentally shot by her 3-year-old nephew who played with a gun inside their house in Barangay Poblacion on Sunday. Reports said PO1 Nerissa de Guzman, 25, of the Southern Police District in Metro Manila, suffered a bullet wound in the head. She was taken to the San Lazaro Hospital in Manila. Police said De Guzman's nephew was able to reach the .45 cal. pistol owned by De Guzman's boyfriend, Alexander Clar de Jesus, who visited the policewoman on Sunday. Reports said both De Guzman and De Jesus did not notice that the boy was already playing with the gun.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop kills friend's brod

VIGAN CITY—A policeman shot and killed his girlfriend's brother in Barangay Cuta on Monday. The suspect, PO3 Nestor Amigable, and another companion reportedly went to the house of Amigable's girlfriend, Jovita de la Cruz. Police said Jovita's brother, Dominic, 19, met a drunk Amigable and his companion and told them that his sister was not in the house. But before leaving, Amigable grabbed Dominic and shot him in the neck. Dominic was taken to the Gabriela Silang General Hospital but died after an hour. Amigable, who is assigned in the police station in San Vicente town, and his companion escaped.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Marijuana seized

CALAPAN CITY—Sixty-four grams of marijuana leaves, two fully grown marijuana plants and 18 seedlings were seized by Bongabong town policemen, together with Mayor Alex Enriquez, during a raid near the house of Fotefar Gregorio, 30, of Barangay Kaligtasan, Bongabong. But Gregorio managed to escape after he noticed the presence of authorities in the area.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Car thief nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY—Police in Ragay, Camarines Sur on Tuesday captured a notorious car thief operating in this city and nearby towns. Police authorities said they already informed other police stations in Bicol about the arrest of Nestor Morano and his cohorts, who allegedly stole several motorcycles in Daraga and this city. Morano, of Daraga, was turned over to the city police and is facing a car theft case before the court. He reportedly admitted to stealing 10 motorcycles with cohorts Eric Alcera and Alfredo Naag. He said they brought the vehicles to a certain Ronnie in Atimonan, Rizal, and sold them for P12,000 to P15,000 apiece.

Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Eufemia Ruiz; 80

EUFEMIA Icban Ruiz, of Lubao, Pampanga, died Aug. 9 in Quezon City at the age of 80. She is survived by her husband Godofredo; children, Mon and Girlie, Cherry and Sonny, Fred and Ruby; grandchildren and other relatives. Her body lies at Chapel 15 of Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment and other funeral services will be announced later.

Angel Borillo; 83

ANGEL Alabanza Borillo, a retired revenue district officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, died on Aug. 9 in Davao City at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife Olympia; children, Mario, Albert, Robert, Susan, Teddy, Enrique, Francis, Francisco and Joseph, and their spouses; grandchildren and other relatives. His body lies at the family residence in Santa Maria, Dumanlas in Buhangin District, Davao City. Interment will be on Aug. 12 at 1 p.m. at the Davao Memorial Park in Davao City.

Suspension of logging company pushed

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The provincial board of Aurora has approved a resolution supporting findings and recommendations of a Department of Environment and Natural Resources team that investigated a logging company and nine DENR officials.

The resolution urged Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun to suspend the logging operations of Toplite Lumber Inc. in some 8,000 hectares in Dipaculao town and to cancel its Integrated Forestry Management Agreement (Ifma).

It also sought the immediate filing of charges against Samuel Peñafiel, environment director for Southern Tagalog; the six members of the regional technical review committee; the provincial and community environment and natural resources officers; and tree markers and scalers assigned at the Dinadiawan forest station.

The investigating team said the neglect by these officials "resulted in rampant illegal logging."

Gozun suspended the operations of Toplite starting July 30. In her memorandum, she upheld the findings that the company cut logs before the approval of its integrated operations plan and that its logging activities encroached on portions of the forest of nearby Quirino.

The memorandum was implemented by the DENR Central Luzon director who has jurisdiction over Aurora since the province was annexed back to Central Luzon last year.

Gozun said the two recommendations would have to wait until after technical meetings were held with Toplite officials and DENR officials to allow them to dispute the findings.

Peñafiel questioned the manner by which the team, led by natural forestry management division chief Joveniana Galicia, had conducted the investigation. He also doubted the technical bases of the findings.

According to the board, the investigating team had confirmed the complaints against Toplite. It said the efforts of the team would be "useless and that the report becomes a mere scrap of paper if no positive action is taken by the implementing agency."

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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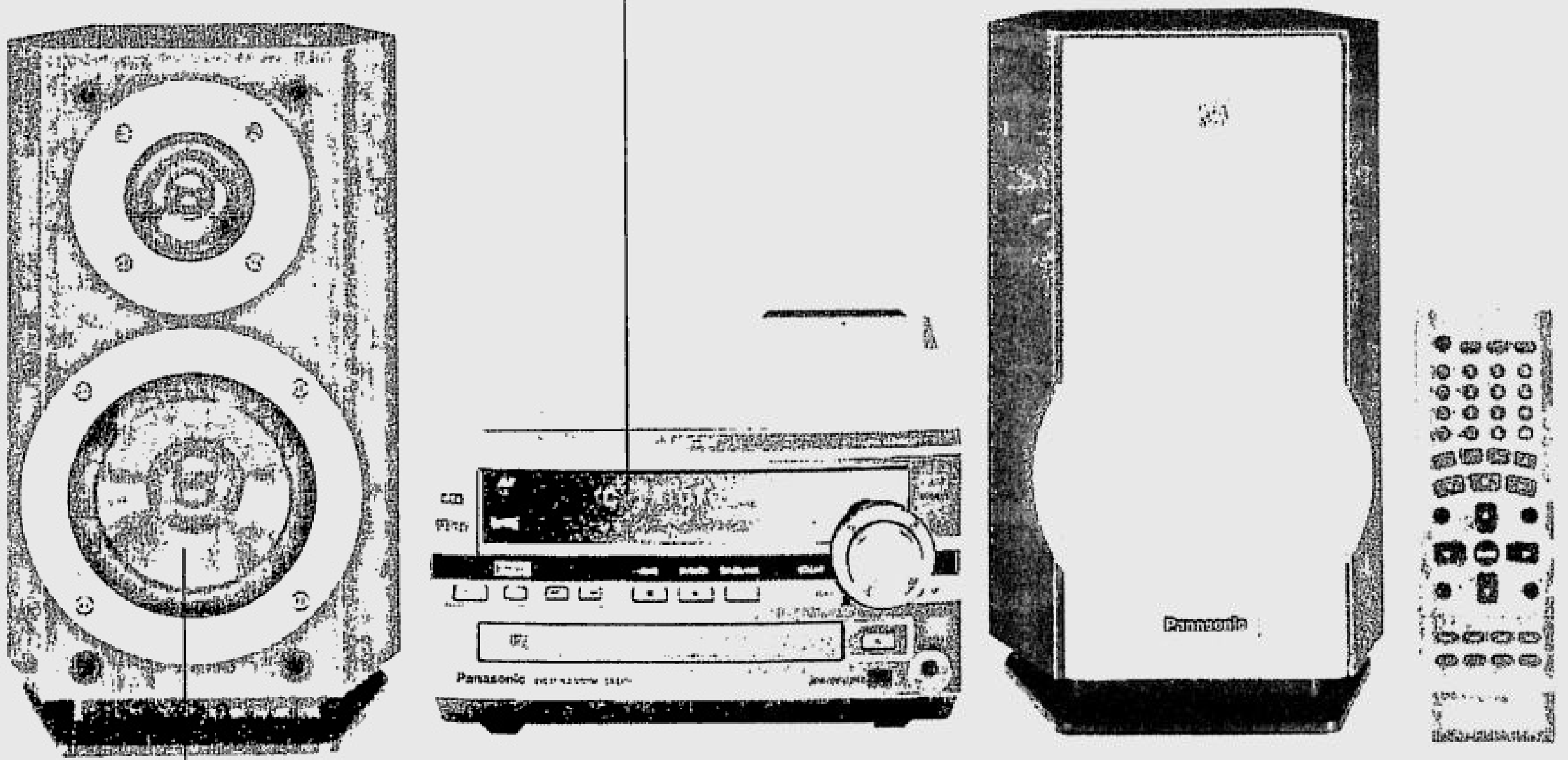

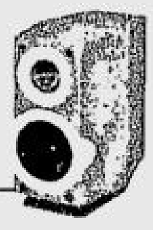

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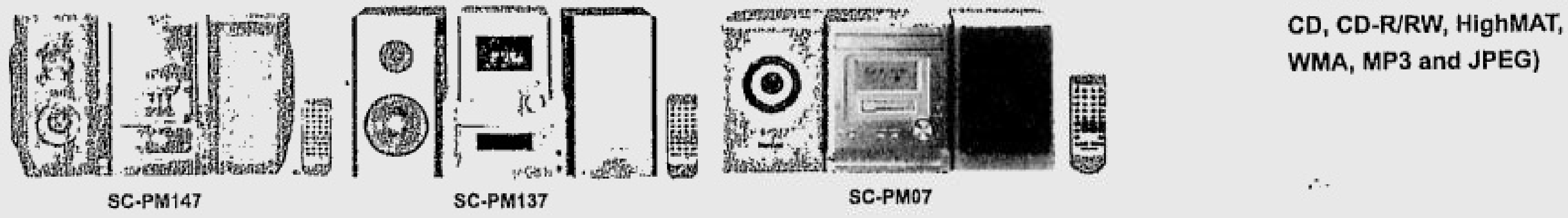

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Gov't eyes …

From page A1

This amount is separate from the P270.7 billion for debt amortization or principal payments, according to Andaya.

Real debt

"P542.2 billion in interest payments, plus debt amortization for 2004. This is the real debt service amount. Up from P425.7 billion this year," Andaya said.

He said the debt service was more than double the P261.1 billion in combined proposed budgets of the Department of Education, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of National Defense, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Agriculture.

The current outstanding debt of the national government is now P3.54 trillion.

"From the oldest Filipino to the newly born, for every man, child and woman, the per capita debt is P44,000," Minority Leader Carlos Padilla (LDP, Nueva Vizcaya) said.

The P3.54 trillion in national government debt does not include debts of government financial institutions, government-owned or -controlled corporations, contingent liabilities, including loans extended to build-operate-transfer projects, and those of independent power producers that carry sovereign guarantee.

The entire public sector debt is P5.2 trillion, according to Andaya's computations.

By the end of its term, the Macapagal administration would have borrowed more than the Estrada, Ramos or Aquino administrations, Padilla said.

The "sadder part is the massive borrowings did not benefit the poor and the disadvantaged," he said.

"President Macapagal's worst legacy to the nation will be the monumental debt she will leave behind," the lawmaker said.

Swift et al. may get P500M from Marcos loot

By Carlito Pablo

A FAT fee awaits American lawyer Robert Swift, who represented victims of human rights violations during the Marcos dictatorship.

As a "gesture of appreciation," the victims, who may get a total of P10 billion in compensation, are considering paying Swift and company 5 percent of their compensation as legal fees, Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) said yesterday.

At 5 percent, Swift and his counterparts, like Filipino lawyer Rod Domingo, are bound to get P500 million.

"Of course, it would be voluntary on the part of the victims. Me, I'm willing to give 10 percent of my share. Then we'll pool it," Rosales said in a phone interview.

Swift represented the victims in a class suit against the Marcos estate before a Hawaii court. The court awarded the victims $1.9 billion in compensation in 1994 but this has yet to be enforced.

The P10 billion (about $200 million) in compensation is provided under House Bill No. 4535, which is currently subject to interpellation. The amount will come from part of the $683 million in Marcos' Swiss accounts the Supreme Court forfeited in favor of the government last month.

AMERICAN lawyer Robert Swift (center) talks with Rep. Etta Rosales and Claimants 1081 lawyer Rod Domingo during a consultation meeting in 2000.

HB 4535 seeks to amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law that requires that all proceeds from the recovered Marcos ill-gotten wealth go to agrarian reform.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier said she wanted to set aside P8 billion from the Marcos loot as compensation for the rights victims.

"Even if the compensation didn't result from the Hawaii court decision and will be coming through legislation, we will be giving Bob Swift a share as a gesture of appreciation for the work they did," Rosales said.

She noted that there had been no formal arrangement with Swift regarding lawyers' fees when he started helping the victims during the 1980s.

"Five percent minimum is reasonable," said Rosales, a principal sponsor of HB 4535.

Even if the victims finally get the P10 billion in compensation, they will still press for the awarding of the $1.9 billion in damages awarded to them by the Hawaii court.

The claimants filed an enforcement suit in a Makati court, but the case couldn't move forward because the court is demanding P400 million in docket fees.

"We are asking the Supreme Court to order the waiving of the P400 million in docket fees on the ground that petitioners are poor litigants," Rosales said.

Rosales said her group wanted to put up a private foundation using the $1.9 billion to help not only Marcos victims but victims of human rights violations under post-Marcos administrations.

The heirs of the late President Ferdinand Marcos have yet to concede defeat over the $683 million in bank deposits.

Marcos lawyers Michael and Michelle Lazaro said Friday that their clients would contest the Supreme Court's July 15 ruling.

The Lazaros said the Marcoses would also appeal before the Swiss Federal Tribunal, claiming it is only this court that can authorize the transfer to the Philippine government of the frozen Marcos wealth held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank.

Truth commission on victims' claims sought

From page A1

"There (should) be a process (in compensating the Marcos victims), which we hope would not take as long as the Gulf War (claims)," Carranza said.

"It's a matter of justice, not just of money," he added.

Lawmakers are hammering out a law that would set aside some $200 million for the Marcos victims.

At present, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law provides that all ill-gotten wealth recovered by the PCGG would go to agrarian reform.

In the House of Representatives, the discussion hit a snag when Rep. Etta Rosales, chair of the committee on human rights, proposed that even post-Marcos human rights victims be indemnified.

She came under fire from fellow martial law victims—Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Teodoro Locsin Jr.—who said such law would shift the focus from the atrocities during the Marcos regime.

Carranza earlier urged the Commission on Human Rights to involve itself in efforts to indemnify the rights victims.

He also urged the government not to touch the recovered Marcos loot until the July 15 Supreme Court ruling becomes final and until Congress passes the compensation law.

"We don't know how much Congress will set aside (for the victims)," he pointed out.

Rod Domingo, lawyer of Claimants 1081, a group of victims, voiced apprehensions about the proposed truth commission.

He said it was not clear who would sit in the body, how it would calculate the amount of compensation based on the extent of abuse and how long it would undertake the task.

Domingo said the truth commission could also be open to lawsuits, which would delay the compensation.

The lawyer wants the government to course the compensation through the US District Court of Hawaii, which awarded about $2 billion to 9,539 Marcos human rights victims in 1994.

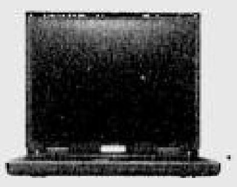
He said the court already had a process to evaluate the claims.

By coursing the money through the Hawaii court, the claimants' lawyers, like Domingo and American Philip Swift, would get their lawyer's fees.

Domingo said the government was taking a more circuitous route just to avoid parting money with lawyers.

"That's what it's all about," he said.

"It's only right that only Marcos victims (should be entitled to compensation) … but we should be careful and study this proposed law first," he added.



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 11, 2003
19th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Dt 10:12-22
Gospel:	Mt 17:22-27

While Jesus was in Galilee with the Twelve, he said to them, "The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands, and they will kill him. But he will rise on the third day." The Twelve were deeply grieved.

When they returned to Capernaum, the Temple tax collectors came to Peter and asked him, "Does your master pay the temple tax?" He answered, "Certainly."

Peter then entered the house, but immediately Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Simon? Who pay taxes or tributes to the kings of the earth: their sons or the other people?" Peter replied, "The others."

And Jesus told him, "The sons, then, are tax-free. But so as not to offend these people, go to the sea, throw in a hook and open the mouth of the first fish you catch. You will find a coin in it, take it and let it pay for you and for me."

Commentary

There are times in our lives when we find ourselves having to go against the flow, standing our ground and being different. Throughout most of his life, Jesus sought to remain steadfast in the principles he held dear. When he was criticized for healing on the Sabbath, he reminded his critics that the Sabbath was made for man and not vice-versa, and that doing good on the Sabbath was better than not doing anything at all to assist someone in need. This might give the impression that Jesus was a rebellious troublemaker who was there to shake up the establishment. The gospel reading today shows the exact opposite. Asked if he paid the obligatory temple tax, Jesus responds by saying foreigners, and not subjects, should be made to pay the tax. He stands his ground on the principles he holds dear, once again going against the flow, being different from what is expected. And yet, what surprises us here is not that, but the fact that he goes ahead and instructs Peter to pay the tax, "so that they may not be offended." More than seeming to have given up his on his principles, Jesus is actually showing here that the true character of a man is not shown by the simple clinging onto personal values and principles, but also by the ability to compromise when this is necessary, and when this will actually do more good than otherwise. Jesus was principled; but he wasn't stubborn.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)/REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Presumption of innocence—The rationale behind the constitutional presumption of innocence has been explained by the Court in People v. Godoy as follows: "The presumption of innocence . . . Is founded upon the first principles of justice, and is not a mere form but a substantial part of the law. It is not overcome by mere suspicion or conjecture; a probability that the defendant committed the crime; nor by the fact that he had the opportunity to do so. Its purpose is to balance the scales in what would otherwise be an uneven contest between the lone individual pitted against the People and all the resources at their command. Its inexorable mandate is that, for all the authority and influence of the prosecution, the accused must be acquitted and set free if his guilt cannot be proved beyond the whisper of a doubt. This is in consonance with the rule that conflicts in evidence must be resolved upon the theory of innocence rather than upon a theory of guilt when it is possible to do so." Indeed, the State, aside from showing the existence of a crime, has the burden of correctly identifying the author of the crime. Both requisites must be "proved by the State beyond reasonable doubt on the strength of its evidence and without solace from the weakness of the defense. Thus, even if the defense of the accused may be weak, the same is inconsequential if, in the first place, the prosecution failed to discharge the onus on his identity and culpability. The presumption of innocence dictates that it is for the people to demonstrate guilt and not for the accused to establish innocence." [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, People v. Limpangog, G.R. No. 141438-40. February 3, 2003]

By R. B. Vera

Phone call to Basilan led to Edris location

From page A1

er of the cell phone was one who informed authorities about the terrorist's presence.

Another source, however, said the Army received the tip from Lasal, whom the military had recaptured earlier. Al-Ghozi, Edris and Lasal fled Camp Crame together on July 14.

According to the source, Lasal, who is also known as Merang Abante, was rearrested, but this was kept under wraps by the military while the hunt for Al-Ghozi and Edris was ongoing.

Members of an Army team from Basilan, who "knew" Edris, were then sent to Lanao to track down Edris, an alleged bomb maker, the source said.

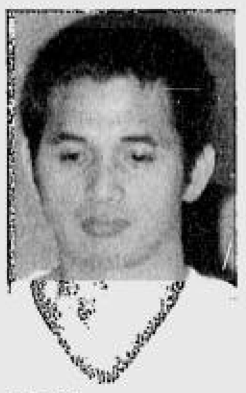
On Thursday, the team led by Capt. Cristobal Julian Paolo Perez bagged Edris at a checkpoint in Barangay Banga-an, Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte. The Abu Sayyaf leader was accompanied by Commander Mamud Esmail, said to be the deputy of Commander Latip of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Lanao del Norte.

Edris and Esmail reportedly tried to siege for the firearms of their guards, prompting the soldiers to shoot them dead.

Earlier, Edris had confessed to designing bomb trucks for the Abu Sayyaf. He was also linked to the kidnapping of the American couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham, and 20 others from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan in 2001.

He was allegedly a "close aide" of Khadaffy Janjalani, chieftain of the Abu Sayyaf.

The United States has tagged the bandit group as part of the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the suicide attacks on the World Center's twin towers in New York in 2001.



EDRIS

Cosmonaut, sweetheart wed in space

From page A1

be the first and last wedding in space.

The ceremony was to be an other-worldly affair with the 41-year-old groom orbiting the Earth at a height of some 400 km and his 26-year-old bride firmly earthbound in an auditorium in her home city of Houston, Texas.

Malenchenko's American colleague aboard the International Space Station, Ed Lu, will be best man, while a family friend will stand in for the groom during the ceremony in Texas, according to US media.

Under Texas law, a marriage can go ahead if one of the parties is absent for valid reasons. US officials have accepted a space mission as one such reason.

The event has been planned well in advance, with the couple receiving a marriage license last month from a Texas court and the wedding ring having been delivered to the space platform aboard a Progress cargo vessel that refueled the International Space Station (ISS) in June.

A tuxedo was also delivered by the supply vessel to enable the groom to dress in style for what US reports say will be a televised ceremony.

According to a Russian source, Dmitriyeva has negotiated with a US television station for it to broadcast the ceremony live.

The deal would provide a handsome windfall for the couple who would not even have to pay the cost of the transmission—between $8,000 and $10,000 for 10 minutes—as cosmonauts are allowed to speak with their loved ones for free while in orbit, a Russian Space Agency official said.

A spokesperson for the Russian Space Agency, Sergei Gorbunov, said that he had no objection to the marriage.

"Marriage is a cosmonaut's own business," he told the Itar-Tass news agency. "Actions by cosmonauts in orbit are regulated by the inter-governmental Code of Cosmonauts' Conduct on Board the International Space Station which contains no direct ban on marriages."

Moscow, however, gave its assent through clenched teeth, with officials opposing the marriage for as long as they could on that grounds that Malenchenko, as an active-duty officer in Russia's armed forces, was party to confidential information.

Gorbunov stressed that in the future "space marriages will be forbidden" and said that henceforth, this would be made explicit in cosmonauts' contracts.

Any contacts between Malenchenko and Dmitriyeva would have to take place "during the statutory time allocated for contacts between the crew and their relatives," he said.

On Friday, Gorbunov warned that Malenchenko would face some stiff questioning from his superiors when he returned from space, although "he won't be thrown into prison for this."

Malenchenko, who is divorced, proposed to Dmitriyeva in December last year before blasting off for the ISS in April. Dmitriyeva is a US citizen who emigrated from the Soviet Union with her parents when she was 4 years old.

They plan to marry in a church in Russia when Malenchenko returns to Earth in October, then spend their honeymoon in Australia. *AFP*

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GASUL
Tuwing kailangan, maaasahan.

Clash erupts in hunt for Al-Ghozi; 3 killed

From page A1

City on July 14 during the state visit of Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

At least two military battalions have been deployed in Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and parts of Zamboanga del Sur to recapture Al-Ghozi and Lasal, according to Lucero.

The operation began late last week and was based on information given during interrogation by Edris, who was killed when he and his companion reportedly tried to grab a gun from their guards after they were captured Thursday in Lanao del Norte.

"Edris was interrogated for 4 1/2 hours," Lucero told reporters. "He revealed the whereabouts of Al-Ghozi and hopefully, those revelations are true."

Lucero did not elaborate on the interrogation, explaining that military officials in Manila were still waiting for the report from the Southern Command.

Lucero said the military would exert efforts to capture Al-Ghozi alive and to get information from him to shed light on his escape from Camp Crame.

Al-Ghozi is being protected by a number of armed groups earlier reported to be part of the MILF, according to Lucero.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied reports that guerrillas from the 25,000-strong group could be aiding Al-Ghozi and warned that a large presence of troops in areas where the rebels were operating could provoke further clashes.

Both sides have agreed to a ceasefire ahead of resuming formal peace negotiations aimed at ending the MILF's 25-year insurgency.

TERROR WATCH

A member of the Aviation Security Group of the Philippine National Police scans the perimeter of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport as part of measures against resurgent terrorist activities. ROGER MARGALLO

A civilian "spotter," who helped in the arrest of Edris, said Al-Ghozi was not with the Abu Sayyaf member when the military seized Edris last week.

"Don't believe the reports (that Al-Ghozi is dead). I'm telling you," the civilian spotter, a former aide of slain Abu Sayyaf leader Abdurajak Janjalani, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Two INQUIRER sources earlier said Al-Ghozi was reported killed with Edris and Mahmoud Ismael, an alleged leader of the MILF.

The military claimed Edris and Ismael were killed in a shootout after they tried to grab the firearm of one of their guards.

The civilian spotter, who asked not to be named, is helping the Army's 1st and 4th Infantry Divisions in the operations against Al-Ghozi in Lanao del Norte.

The spotter suspected that the people holding Al-Ghozi were "spreading wrong information" to ease the military's pressure on the rebels in Lanao del Norte.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said the "spotter" was entitled to receive the P2-million reward for the capture of Edris.

Capt. Paulo Perez, chief of the 34th Military Intelligence Company, also denied reports that Al-Ghozi was arrested along with Edris and Ismael.

"That report is very far-fetched and impossible. We only got two, the rest of the passengers were allowed to go," Perez said.

Al-Ghozi, Lasal and Edris stayed together from the time they walked out of Camp Crame until Edris was gunned down, according to Lucero.

This information seemed to coincide with the version of a ranking police official, who had told the INQUIRER that Al-Ghozi needed to be with at least one of his fellow fugitives to "show him around" after the escape.

The official, who helped arrest Edris in Pasay City last year, said the companion was probably the Abu Sayyaf bomb specialist who was also said to have been a military asset.

A top intelligence official from the PNP yesterday theorized that both Al-Ghozi and Lasal (aka Merang Abante) could now be under the custody of the Army in Mindanao.

"If you were the military," he told the INQUIRER, "you wouldn't kill Edris even under extreme situations unless you already got everything you needed from him."

It was also possible, he said, that Al-Ghozi and Lasal had been recaptured, allowing the military to finish off Edris after the fugitive and a companion purportedly seized a soldier's firearm and engaged government troops in a shootout.

The source said Army soldiers allegedly found Al-Ghozi and Edris, primarily because of Lasal. "Merang was the key because he was an asset of the Army," the police intelligence official said.

More nursing schools, but quality down

From page A1

year's passing rate was only 42 percent, down from 56 percent the previous year, according to the Professional Regulation Commission.

"Many schools are coming up. Some have no dean, and their faculty members are leaving the country, which is the greatest threat to us," said Lorenzo, who also chairs the Commission on Higher Education's technical committee on nursing.

While many young nurses are going abroad to work, she said the bigger problem was that experienced teachers and trainers would also be migrating, leaving behind a pool of practically untrained, unskilled nursing students.

"This is what's scaring us most because this would deal the greatest blow to our nursing education. Who will teach these students?" she asked. Lorenzo teaches at the University of the Philippines in Manila.

Patient-intern ratio

She also noted the increasingly stiff competition for internship in hospitals, saying the ratio of patients to students had come up to 1:25 to 1:30.

This should not be the case, she said.

Because of the situation, Lorenzo said many of the interns had been left merely watching and not having the chance to have hands-on practice in caring for the patients.

Unfortunately, she said, the less skilled nurses and unlicensed graduates are left in the country because the eligible ones are recruited by hospitals abroad, particularly in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Lorenzo said some hospitals had cut down on their complicated operations, such as open-heart surgery, by about 50 percent due to the lack of skilled nurses that could assist in the procedure.

Around 7,000 to 10,000 nurses leave the country every year for better-paying jobs abroad. The perks offered by recruiters include immigrant visas for the workers and their families.

Even doctors, she said, had been taking up nursing to be able to bring their families abroad and avoid the uncertain political situation here, Lorenzo said.

"We cannot stop migration; we cannot fight the currency differential. But we should be able to manage it so that not everybody leaves at the same time," she said.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

The Philippine Chamber of Arrastre and Stevedoring Operators (PCASO), a national aggrupation of Stevedoring and Arrastre operators whose members come from the Port of Manila (North Harbor); Port of Batangas, Legaspi, Masbate; Ports in Visayas such as Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Tagbilaran, Tacloban, Ormoc, San Carlos, Toledo; and Ports in Mindanao such as Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Iligan, General Santos, Davao, Zamboanga, Basilan and Polloc, South Cotabato on account of the recent attempt to waylay the administration of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, leaving in its wake economic repercussions, effort of which would have otherwise been best served to further boost the country towards stability and the realization of a Strong Republic, hereby state that:

The PCASO as an organization wholly supports the economic initiatives and accompanying gains, which the PGMA Administration has introduced and implemented;

The PCASO as an organization believes that under the leadership of President Arroyo, the backbone of the cargo handling industry which are the portworkers themselves has achieved real benefits such as compliance by cargo handling operators to government mandated wage rates, actual funding of retirement policies for workers, as well as observance of best practices in port and terminal operations, among others;

The PCASO as an organization firmly believes that the Arroyo Administration is in the best position to turn the economy around towards economic recovery;

The PCASO as an organization also supports the growing call and sentiment among the Filipino people for the Feliciano Commission to come out with its findings for speedy resolution of the matter; and

The PCASO as an organization hereby calls on all concerned and well-meaning individuals as well as organizations to rally behind the Administration of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to achieve our vision of economic stability towards a Strong Republic.

BENJAMIN C. AKOL
President

PCASO
PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF ARRASTRE AND STEVEDORING OPERATORS

Advt.

Why Reyes succeeded and young mutineers failed

From page A1

yet they failed. Although Reyes' intervention, consisting of withdrawal of military support from the Estrada regime, was bloodless, it succeeded.

Reyes and the major services commanders toppled the Estrada regime without carrying firearms and firing a shot. They carried with them the entire chain of command and the military establishment. The military leadership simply walked out on the Estrada regime and crossed over to the civilian opposition camp at Edsa.

The fatal mistake of the young officers is that their coup planning used failed models—drawing lessons from the swashbuckling military adventures of Col. Gregorio Honasan, rather than the successful model epitomized by Reyes.

Carefully prepared

The Reyes intervention was carefully prepared. He took the pulse of the military from the level of the officers corps and down to the enlisted men and the mood of the nation that was sweeping away from the Estrada regime which was by the end of 2000 engulfed in a wave of scandals of corruption.

The political environment then was the erosion of widespread confidence in the Estrada administration, that was severely shaken by the impeachment trial of Estrada. The military high command was not unmindful of the scale of civil unrest against Estrada and Reyes' decision to withdraw military support mirrored the public mood for change and rendered unnecessary the use of arms to dismount the Estrada administration.

In the 1986 People Power Revolution, the military mutiny at Camp Aguinaldo caught momentum because it was backed by people power. As in 1986, people power was a key element in the success of the Reyes military intervention in January 2001.

The Enrile-Ramos mutiny had no elaborate plans, drawn up in the shadow of conspiracy, that sought to seize Malacañang, TV-radio stations, and strategic military installations.

Ambitious objectives

By contrast, the Honasan-led coups against the Aquino administration in 1987 and 1989 had ambitious objectives. They attacked the presidential palace and Camp Aguinaldo and tried to seize military bases. The coup attempts in 1987 and 1989 were particularly bloody conflicts, which plunged the AFP into civil war.

The young officers' planning, as revealed from seized documents, was drawn from the template of the failed plots, led by the flamboyant Honasan.

Their plans, recovered in Oakwood, had exuberant plans to storm Malacañang and the AFP General Headquarters, as well as seize Sangley Point, the international airport, and radio and TV stations, although they did not have adequate military capability to mount such an ambitious power grab.

First lesson

They could muster only, as it turned out, more than 300 officers and men, although they made the gross miscalculation that their strike at Makati would spark military defections in other camps. This did not happen. The plans, drawn with the precision of the building designs of an architect, were fatally flawed in the execution because they were so starry-eyed to assume that the civilian political component in the form of another people power would support them.

Lesson One is that people power cannot be mobilized on the strength of parochial grievances merely military in nature. These had to be fueled by grievances universally shared by the rest of the population.

The Makati rebels, unlike the military led by the Reyes chain of command, carried arms and planned to take power by force of arms. They acted without bringing along with them the entire AFP. They should learn by now that Honasan after several failed coup attempts is a spent force and could not swing the military organization behind it, not with his nostrum of what passes for a political program drawn in his National Recovery Program.

Use of arms, explosives

What did the young officers in was the use of arms, planting explosives on the premises of Oakwood, and their arrogant demands for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

Their plans that detailed attacks on strategic political, military and public installations likewise made them liable to coup d'etat charges and to court martial under the Articles of War.

These are the elements that differentiate their intervention from that of Reyes.

The young officers may loath Reyes, whose removal they had demanded, but they ensured the failure of their adventure when they ignored the successful formula for intervention used by Reyes and the factors that made it successful, including the role of people power backing military adventures.

Now Reyes has the last laugh. If the young officers had more support from both civilians and inside the military, and had planned more realistically, the seizure of Makati could have sparked a shooting war.

Danger not over

If the coup had not been quashed swiftly, we could have plunged into civil war. We averted a bloody conflict, but the danger of armed conflict is not behind us.

Unrest continues to simmer inside the AFP. Unless the tentacles of the coup are eradicated, these pockets of revolt will continue to fan grievances expressed by the officers.

Eradication is the reason why the Macapagal administration is not yet lifting the declaration of rebellion. Arrests of other coup plotters who are now being uncovered by new evidence are continuing.

Western liberal commentators have described the Reyes intervention, while bloodless and intended to avert civil war, as a "soft coup." Soft as it may have been, we can't ignore the warning that the quashing of the Makati mutiny took another military intervention—i.e., it took the senior military leadership to quell the young officers' revolt.

The intervention saved the civilian government, but the intervention of the high command to persuade the rebels to give in, has made the civilian government hostage to the military organization for its survival.

With the fragility of the democratic institutions in mediating conflicts, exposed by the failed coup, one does not feel confident that we can survive another coup attempt.

The tragedy in the last coup is that few understood that the coup was intended not just to overthrow a legal government but the democratic system.

Hope dims for Pura Kalaw students, parents

THE HOPE of Pura V. Kalaw Annex High School students and parents to keep their school is fading.

This developed after the city schools division superintendent said the planned phase out of the school would proceed.

In a letter to Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, Victoria Fuentes cited the reasons for her decision.

She said the Jose P. Laurel High School, which is located just across Pura Kalaw Annex, can accommodate the students who would be displaced by the phase-out.

She added that Laurel has nine new classrooms with the completion of the first phase of the Laurel building.

Once the whole project is completed, Fuentes said more classrooms would be available and accommodate more students from Kalaw Annex.

Parents of students in Pura Kalaw, which is located in Project 4, Quezon City, had earlier protested the planned phaseout of the school.

They claimed it would not just displace their children but would deprive the community of a good school.

But Fuentes stood firm on her decision to phase out Kalaw's operations. At the start of classes last June, she did not allow first year high school students to enroll. *Tina Santos*

Metro squatter relocation to Laguna rapped

OVER 250,000 informal settlers from Metro Manila who will be affected by the modernization of the south transit railways may find it hard to relocate to Cabuyao, Laguna.

Barangay residents of this town have strongly opposed the establishment of a 55-hectare relocation site for the informal settlers.

Coordinated by the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) in Cabuyao, residents of Barangays Niugan, Banay-banay and Marinig—the three barangays mostly affected by the proposed relocation project—spearheaded a protest rally last week.

A press statement obtained by the INQUIRER said the proposed relocation site is irrigated and productive in agriculture.

The residents also fear that the settlers might become roots of social problems like garbage, inadequate water supply, insufficient jobs, health and education.

Herthiel Carino, MENR officer, said the proposed relocation site has no environment compliance certificate from the Department of Natural and Natural Resources.

He also said public hearings necessary for the conversion of the land from agricultural to residential have not yet been held.

Nevertheless, residents are confused about reports that the deputized zoning administrator for the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board had already allegedly issued the "locational clearance" for the relocation scheme.

An officer from the Cabuyao mayor's office told the INQUIRER that the relocation issue was a sensitive problem because it is a project of the national government. He said they are not discussing this issue openly with anybody.

Gaudencio Tuiza, Laguna Provincial Housing District II coordinator, said the settlers would come from Manila and Makati areas traversed by the 50-kilometer Manila to Calamba widening project of the railways.

The modernization project involves the expansion of the existing railways to make way for a two-way traffic railway transit. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Leaning building...

From page A24

But when they went out to check, they were surprised to find that the structure was already on the verge of collapse had it not tilted and leaned toward their building.

They said they immediately vacated their houses and sought assistance from the authorities.

Police and barangay authorities as well as the city government rescue team immediately responded to secure the area. Luckily no one was reported hurt during the incident.

"It's a good thing it reclined toward the building next to it. Somehow the building can hold it up. Imagine if it had moved toward the other side, many people would definitely be killed and buried under those concrete and steel," Barangay 43 chair Joel Navarra told the INQUIRER.

Navarra revealed that the foundation of the unfinished edifice was weak as it was intended only for an up-and-down house.

Even the building permit which the owner had secured from the City Hall, Navarra added, was only for a two-floor structure.

Asked who the constructor of the structure was, Navarra said nobody as it was Pinili who was apparently supervising the five-month old construction job.

"He did not hire the services of professional contractor, engineer or architect," he said.

But Pinili's daughter, Kate, had another theory as to why the structure had tilted. The heavy rains during the past days could have caused the ground below its foundation to weaken.

Pinili could not be reached for comment. Kate and her brother Ryan said their father remains confined in an undisclosed hospital after he suffered from a mild heart attack when he learned of the news.

City Engineer Arturo Samonte said charges would be filed against Pinili if he failed to present the necessary building permit.

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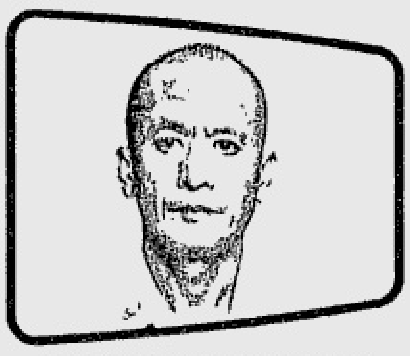
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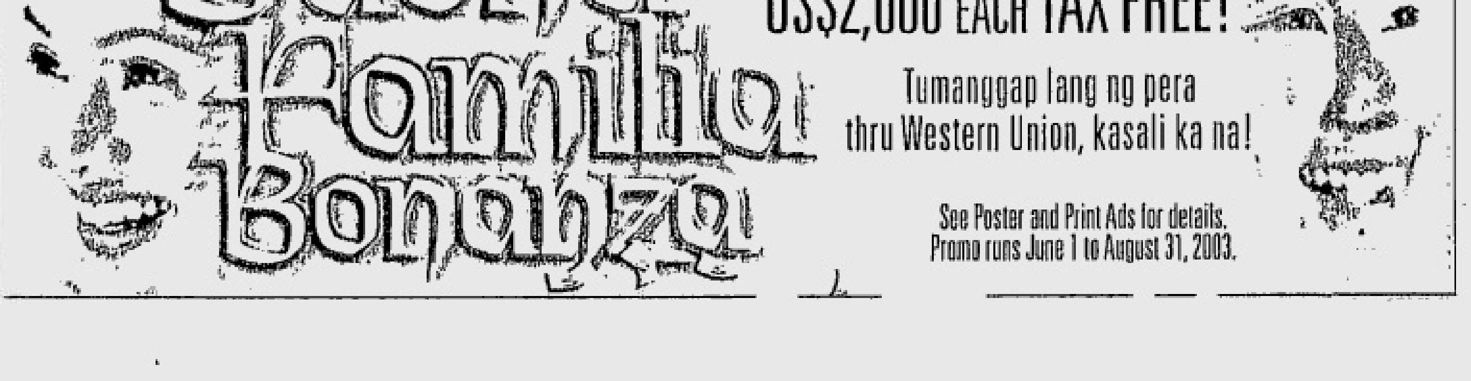

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Warehouse watch set in Valenzuela

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE POLICE and local government in Valenzuela City have started to watch the numerous warehouses in the city on the suspicion that some of these are being used for illegal activities.

Northern Police District director Marcelino Franco told the INQUIRER yesterday that Valenzuela's strategic location was attractive to business—even the ones that are illegal.

He said the city was serving as a gateway to Metro Manila from Northern Luzon, making it a good place for products and contraband in transit.

Last Friday, another warehouse was found hiding two container vans believed hijacked last week, a Toyota Revo and a Mitsubishi Adventure.

The warehouse in Victoria Village, Canumay, was being leased by a certain Ramon Deng, who, as of yesterday, had yet to show up, police chief Jose Marcelo said.

One of the container vans had more than 200 bundles of textile while the other contained more than 800 packed rice dispensers.

The latter truck was reported missing last July 25. The two cars also carried plates which did not match the vehicles.

The city government inspection team came across the warehouse during routine checks last week.

While the inspection team was talking to the warehouse's caretakers to verify its business license, the caretakers fled. The inspection team then reported the warehouse to the police.

Because of this, Marcelo warned warehouse owners to be wary in doing transactions with other businessmen who would want to lease their property. He said owners should be vigilant of syndicates who would tempt them with huge monthly rentals but would use the property for illegal activities.

WATCH/ A23

MINI JOYRIDE
Three teens spend their Sunday morning cruising within the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in their customized baby jeep. ERIK ARAZAS

More commuters use new LRT line

OFFICIALS of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) have reason to smile nowadays.

Passenger volume of LRT Line 2 which runs from Santolan, Pasig, to Cubao, Quezon City, has dramatically increased last July, according to LRTA Administrator Teddy Cruz Jr.

This means people from the eastern side of the metropolis have begun to appreciate the mass rail system, Cruz said.

Based on the data from the automated fare collection system terminals (or the central computer) from the stations, 322,638 commuters have taken the Megatren—re-christened as the "Purple Line" by President Macapagal-Arroyo for its color scheme combined with canary yellow—last month.

This represented an increase of 180,589 from the 142,049 recorded commuters—basically from Marikina, Cainta, Antipolo and Pasig—for the entire month of June.

The particular phase was fully operationalized only last June 16 in time for the opening of classes.

Informed of the increasing trend in ridership, Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza said he was elated with the development.

LRT Line 2 runs from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends.

METROBRIEFS

2 cops in hot water

TWO POLICEMEN are facing separate investigations in the cities of Caloocan and Quezon cities. SPO3 Raymundo Listangco, chief for investigation of the Caloocan City Bagong Silang sub-station, is facing a complaint from Insp. Virgilio Bag-id of the Western Police District. Listangco allegedly threatened Bag-id who vowed to file today a complaint before the Caloocan People's Law Enforcement Board. Listangco could not be reached for comment. In Quezon City, PO3 Isidro Ramiro is facing complaints of grave threats and attempted homicide. Ramiro ran amuck inside Georgetown Videoke Bar along Quirino Highway, Lagro, about midnight yesterday and threatened other customers with his service firearm. He even tried to shoot Antonio Calot, 30, but he missed because of drunkenness. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Plastics warehouse robbed

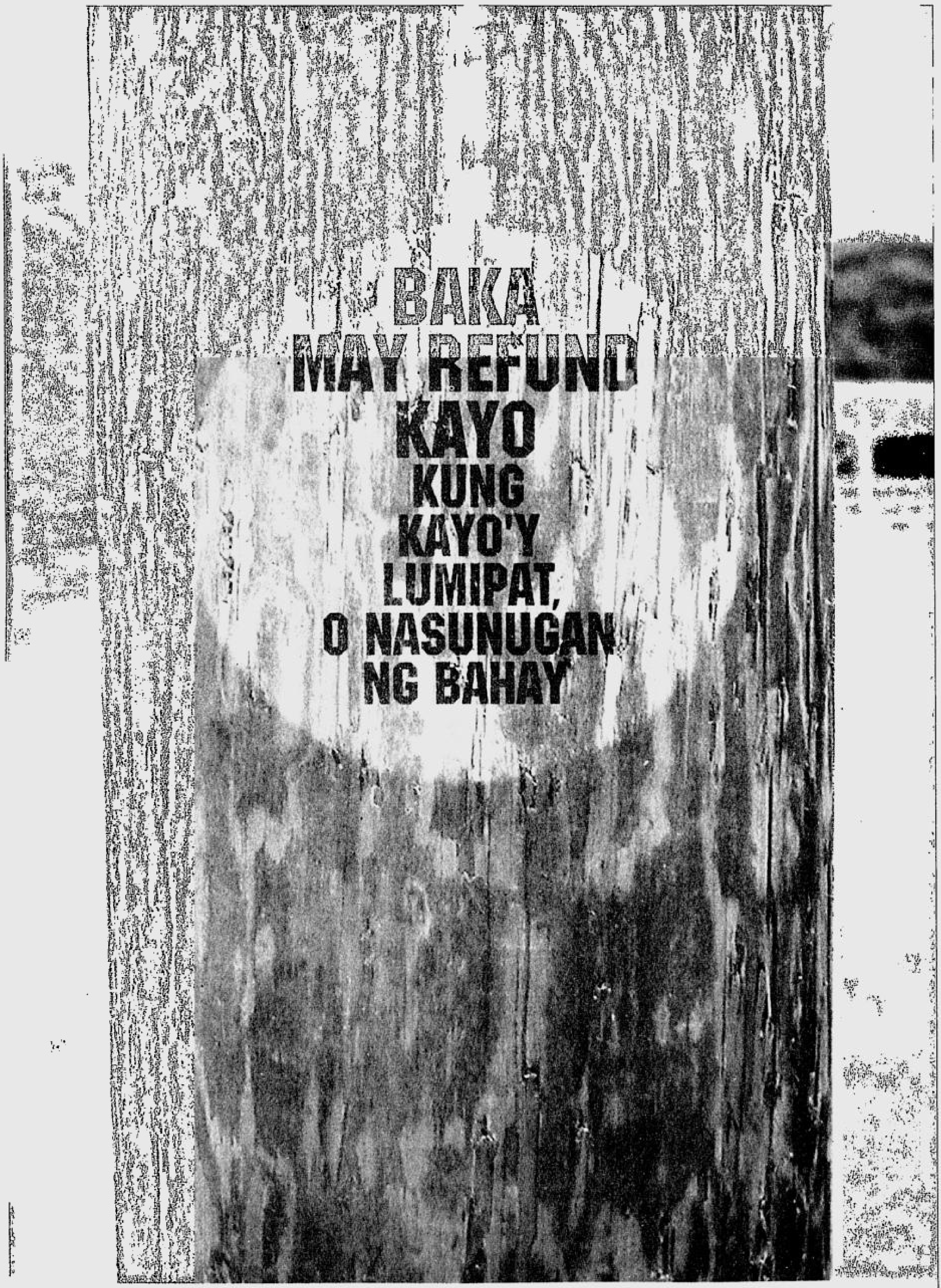
FIVE men introduced themselves as agents of the National Bureau of Investigation and then proceeded to rob a plastics warehouse in Valenzuela City. The suspects took P20,000 and a cell phone after barging into the Toronto Plastic warehouse on Santiago Street, Canumay West, Valenzuela City about 4 p.m. Saturday. One of the suspects was identified as a certain alias Jun or Joseph, who used to work at the warehouse, a police report said. The suspects fled toward Lingunan, Valenzuela City. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Quitter quits life

A RETIRED Army man was stabbed dead the other night by a neighbor in Makati City after he refused to continue their drinking session. SPO1 Lewelie Cristobal of the Makati City police Homicide Section identified the victim as Armando Soriano 54, of 53 29th avenue extension,'East Rembo, Makati. Soriano died due to a stab wound to the chest. The suspect was identified as Dondon Bautista. According to the investigation, Bautista invited Soriano to a drinking session at a neighborhood store at 7:45 p.m. After a few rounds of beer, however, Soriano decided to go home. Bautista insisted that he stay for another round. When Soriano begged off, it sparked an argument during which Bautista stabbed him once. *Alcuin Papa*

Las Piñas dengue cleanup

LAS PIÑAS Mayor Vergel Aguilar cautioned city residents against a possible dengue outbreak this rainy season as she ordered a clean up in various parts of the city to avert the spread of the killer disease. Aguilar's announcement came after the Department of Health reported more than 700 dengue cases from January to July this year. Aguilar sought to avert a dengue outbreak in Las Piñas even as the city reported less than 10 dengue cases in seven months, which is one of the lowest incidence in Metro Manila. Aguilar has directed the City Health Office, the Environment and Sanitation Center and barangay officials to lead residents in cleaning their surroundings and to undertake other anti-dengue measures. Aguilar has also ordered the City's Sanitation Office to conduct frequent fogging operations in areas where with reported dengue cases.



Ipatutupad ng Meralco ngayong Agosto ang pagre-refund sa mga customers na may "terminated contracts", na ang ibig sabihin ay mga nakalipas na serbisyo ng kuryente o kanseladong kontrata magmula Pebrero 1994.

Ano ang sanhi ng terminated contract?

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- Naputulan ng kuryente

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2. Tumawag sa MERALCO Refund Hotline 1622-8888 o 632-8888 o di kaya ay mag e-mail sa upang malaman kung kayo'y kasama nga sa makakakuha ng refund at kung ano ang dapat gawin upang makuha ninyo ang refund.

Kaya tawag na sa 1622-8888 or 632-8888 o mag e-mail sa refund@meralco.com.ph.

MERALCO

DE-CLOGGING EDSA

Yellow lane traffic scheme takes off

By Alcuin Papa

THE METRO Manila Development Authority is due to re-implement today the "Yellow Lane" scheme on Edsa in an effort to ease traffic along Metro Manila's main artery.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the new system would limit public utility buses to the yellow lane, which will be off limits to private vehicles.

Angelito Vergel De Dios , traffic operations director of the MMDA, said the scheme was first implemented during the time of President Cory Aquino but was junked when the government started building Edsa's flyovers.

Under the traffic scheme, buses will be confined to a lane on the outermost side of Edsa marked by a yellow line.

Private cars will be banned from entering the lane, except when executing a right turn into an intersection or unloading passengers.

De Dios said cars would be allowed to enter the lane 30 meters away from their turn. This distance will be marked by a broken line.

"We have been giving warnings for the past two weeks now that we would be implementing this system, so there is no reason for anyone violating it," De Dios said.

He also explained that when the scheme was first implemented, most violators included private cars invading the yellow lane marked for buses.

"Private cars tend to use the yellow lane. This will force buses to transfer outside the lane where they will load and unload passengers. This causes traffic."

De Dios said the MMDA was confident that the yellow lane would ease the traffic along Edsa, especially during rush hours. "This will surely ease traffic since buses and cars will be separated and won't have to crowd each other for space."

The scheme, explained De Dios, was also in preparation for another system due to be implemented by the MMDA, the "single dispatching system" for buses.

Under this system, buses will only be allowed on Edsa when there is a need for them. "Spotters" will inform dispatchers on terminals on the ends of Edsa if there is a need for buses.

The MMDA, De Dios also said, would dispatch its full complement of traffic enforcers to ensure the strict implementation and compliance to the yellow lane scheme.

According to Fernando, violators will be slapped a P300 fine for the first offense and around P1,000 for the second offense. A third offense will merit a suspension of the driver's license.

"We appeal to everyone to follow the new yellow lane scheme. This is for everyone because it will ease traffic and increase the speed on Edsa. At the same time, we expect to ease the traffic in the yellow lane itself," De Dios said.

POCULAN

CALABUCAL

GIBRALTAR

RAMOS

YOGYOG

LEE-CHUA

AN LIM

DAQUILA

CARVAJAL

SOROLLA

SOLIVEN

FABILLAR

Metrobank Foundation names RP's top teachers

THE METROBANK Foundation has announced the winners of the Search for the Outstanding Teachers for 2003.

The list includes the first ever winners from Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya in the 19-year history of the Search, which aims to promote quality education in the country.

Twelve distinguished teachers from different parts of the country emerged as winners in three levels: elementary, high school and college.

They were chosen from a field of 271 teachers who were nominated by public and private schools all over the country.

The names of the awardees were released after the Final Board of Judges led by its chair, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., and co-chair, Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, held a series of interviews of the finalists last July 2003.

The awardees for the elementary level are: Lourma I. Poculan of the Rizal Central School in Rizal, Zamboanga del Norte; Salvacion R. Calabucal of Hen. Pio del Pilar Elementary School in Makati City; Maria Luisa D. Gibraltar of Igcocolo Elementary School in Guimbal, Iloilo; Lilia G. Ramos of SPED-Integrated School for Exceptional Children in Iloilo City; and Marilou T. Yogyog of Lagawe Central School in Lagawe, Ifugao.

The awardees for the high school level are Renato N. Carvajal of Ateneo de Manila High School in Quezon City; Dr. Evelyn M. Sorolla of Iloilo National High School in Iloilo City; Dr. Samuel R. Soliven of St. Mary's University in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; and Dahlia F. Fabillar of Alubijid National Comprehensive High School in Alubijid, Misamis Oriental.

For the college level, the awardees are: Dr. Queena Lee-Chua of Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City; Dr. Jaime L. An Lim of MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City; and Dr. Sonia S. Daquila of University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos in Bacolod City.

The winners were chosen for their outstanding contributions to the teaching profession, personal integrity and character, instructional competence, and professional and community involvement.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will confer the gold medallions to the awardees on Sept. 2 in Malacañang. However, the awarding ceremonies will be held on Sept. 5 at the Metrobank Plaza and will serve as one of the highlights of Metrobank's 41st anniversary celebrations.

The awardees will also receive a trophy and a cash prize of P150,000.00, of which P25,000.00 will go to the awardees' school for its faculty development program.

With the batch of this year's winners, the Metrobank Foundation has awarded 226 teachers from all over the country.

The other members of the Final Board of Judges were Supreme Court Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna; Rep. Francis Escudero of the First District of Sorsogon and senior deputy majority leader, House of Representatives; Marikina City Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando, who also sits as secretary to the Metro Manila Mayors League; Rev. Fr. William H. Kreutz, S.J., president of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University; and Miguel Belmonte, president and CEO of The Philippine Star.

Vendor killed in rob

A VENDOR who tried to get back his gold necklace from a group of armed robbers was shot dead Saturday night in Manila.

Leodegario Bautista, 38, of Mejorada Street, Tondo, was shot in the back by one of the suspects.

According to witnesses, three men with guns and knives held up the Divisoria-bound jeepney Bautista was riding at the corner of T. Mapua and C.M. Recto Avenue.

One of the suspects grabbed Bautista's necklace and jumped off the jeepney. Bautista ran after him and was shot in the back. *Tarra Quismundo*

Marikina busts colorum PUJs

By Luige del Puerto

THE MARIKINA City government has confiscated the license plates of 19 jeepneys illegally plying routes in the city in a crackdown that started last week.

The city initiated the anti-colorum drive after the Traffic Management, Towing and Impounding Section (TMTIS) found out that many public utility jeepneys were operating on tampered franchises.

Edwin Tan, TMTIS chief, said the jeepneys were registered to ply the Montalban–San Mateo route but were discovered plying the Montalban–Cubao route. Others were supposed to operate only in Manila and Pasig.

The drive was in cooperation with 30 jeepney groups that operate in the city. These supply information on colorum vehicles.

Watch...

From page A22

He said syndicates usually used fake names, making the job difficult for policemen to identify and locate the real operators.

The police chief added that the Valenzuela City government was already conducting daily inspections of warehouses to uncover possible illegal activities or violations.

Nearly two weeks before the Friday raid, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency also searched another warehouse in Marulas, Valenzuela City suspected to be a shabu laboratory.

While the PDEA has yet to establish the warehouse's possible links to drugs, the team found a number of illegally imported chemicals, police said.

Officials also found that the warehouse was operating without the necessary permits from the government. It has been closed by the city government.

More than a year ago, police also uncovered a shabu laboratory in the city, hidden in a warehouse.

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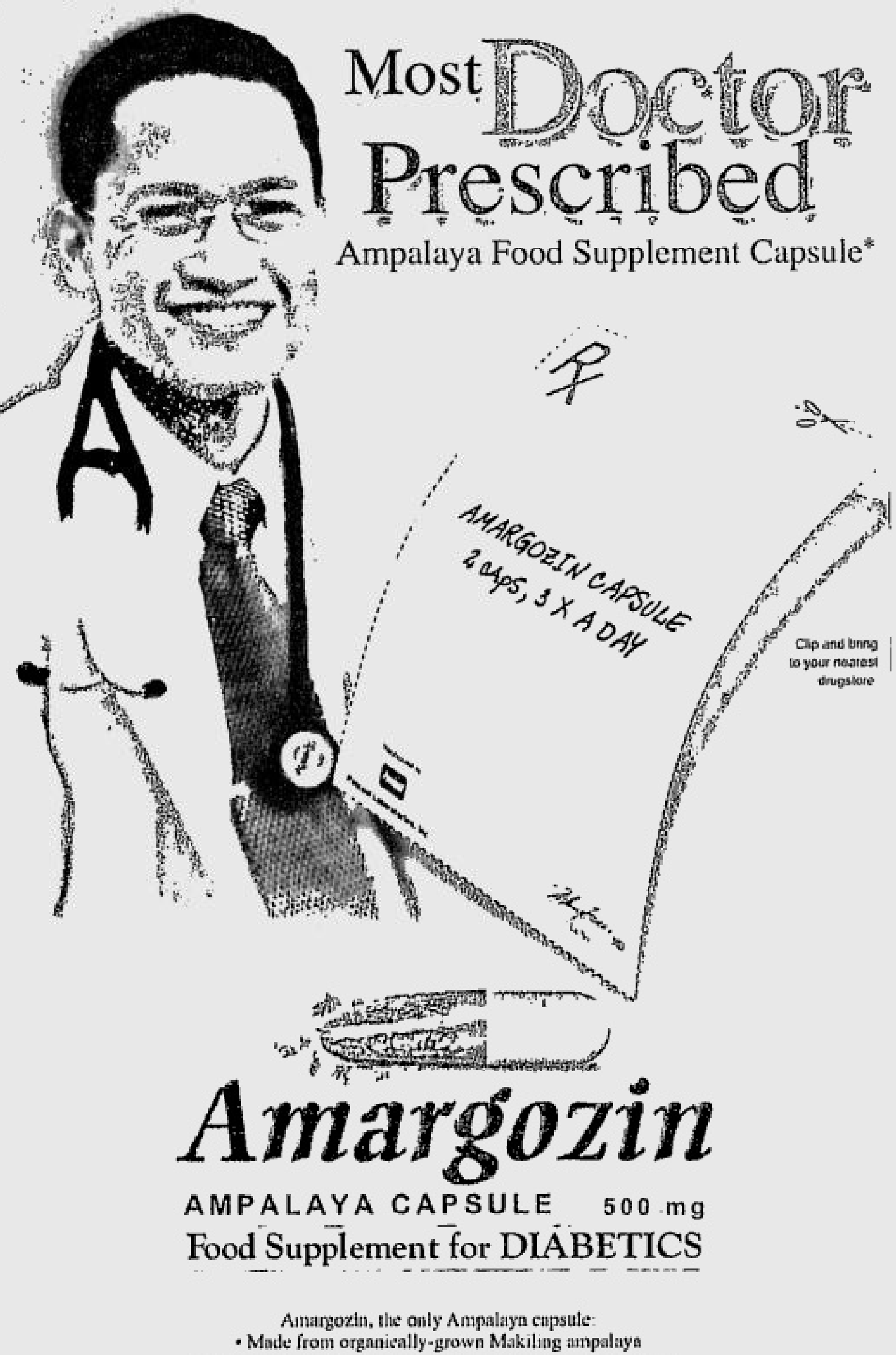
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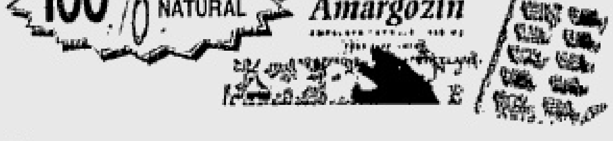

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Leaning building sends barangay folks in panic

By Tina Santos

PANIC gripped a barangay in Caloocan City after a five-story uncompleted structure nearly collapsed and literally leaned against another building early Saturday morning.

Dozens of families living in the houses surrounding the structure on West Second Avenue Grace Park, Caloocan, were forced to evacuate for fear that it would crumble anytime soon.

The unfinished structure by one Jaime Pinili, 49, a widower and a businessman, is flanked by another building—an eight-door, five-story apartment—to which it now leans on and several adjoining one-story wooden houses.

The residents in the area particularly those living in the adjacent building claimed that they were roused from sleep when they felt a strong tremor followed by a loud cracking sound at around 2 a.m.

"*Akala namin lumilindol* (We thought there was an earthquake)," Nestor Torilla, 45, a tenant at the adjoining building said.

LEANING/A21

ERIC ARAZAS

LIKE A BABY
The heat, the noise or the hard surface he is on doesn't seem to bother this man on P. Ocampo Street in Manila Sunday.

Quadruplets' parents leave fate to DOH

By Blanche S. Rivera

CALISAAN

IN THE end it would still boil down to whether they could afford things or not.

The Calisaan couple, parents of the quadruplets who died after stiff deposits required by hospitals disqualified them from getting necessary treatment, would not file any charges against the Manila Central University hospital due to the cost of legal action.

Vladimyr Calisaan, father of the quadruplets, said yesterday that filing charges would only demand much of his time, which he needs to devote to work so he could feed his family.

Calisaan said that his decision not to pursue legal action would stay whatever the results of the government's investigation on his babies' death.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit is expected to announce today the recommendations of the five-member fact-finding team formed by the Department of Health to look into the quadruplet's death.

The babies died at the Fabella hospital a few days after birth because they were not immediately treated by previous hospitals where they were confined in.

"I want justice for my children, but I have to work. I am just asking the DOH to please punish those who have to be punished. Penalize those who did wrong," Calisaan said in Filipino in a phone interview yesterday.

He said he had to be absent from work for three weeks at the height of the controversy just so he and his wife Jocelyn could attend all the meetings and complete the papers for filing before the investigating panel.

Calisaan, who works as a company driver, said he could not afford the same absences again despite the support from his employer.

A DOH lawyer assisted the Calisaans during the investigation. Malacañang has also assigned the couple another lawyer should they decide to file charges in court.

The President also promised last month to give the family P10,000 in assistance but Calisaan said that he has not received anything yet from the government.

"I'm not after the money. What I want is to correct the wrong that was done to us so it would not happen to others. If they give us money, thank you; if not, it's okay," he said.

Jocelyn has recovered from the very emotional childbirth and has been getting treatment at the Manila Doctor's hospital, where they were referred by the DOH.

Planned MMDA dumps opposed

AN ENVIRONMENTAL group is opposing a move by the Metro Manila Development Authority to dump Metro waste in either Bulacan or Nueva Ecija.

In a statement faxed to the INQUIRER yesterday, the Bangon Kalikasan Movement said the solution to Metro Manila's garbage problem lies in the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act 9003).

A report published in the INQUIRER Sunday said the MMDA has received "positive" feedback on its plan to develop a new dump site in either Bulacan or Nueva Ecija.

But the environmental group advocated the implementation of RA 9003 which provides for the establishment of eco-centers in every barangay or barangay cluster for the processing of waste segregated at source.

The same scheme should apply to all other places in the country as mandated in the law, the group said.

The group added that Fernando should learn from his failure in the organized resistance of the people in Quezon where he had attempted to dump Metro Manila garbage.

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Threat of stiff fine on Asi, Hatfield

By June Navarro

A STIFF fine of P500,000 will be imposed on PBA teams fielding the five Fil-foreign players being recommended for deportation by the Senate once a case is filed against them for faking their Filipino citizenship.

Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday announced this on the eve of a Senate plenary session where the recommendation of two Senate panels calling for the summary deportation of Asi Taulava, Rudy Hatfield, Andy Seigle, Jon Ordonio and Davonn Harp will be presented for approval.

The committees headed by Senators Robert Barbers and Ed Angara had announced Thursday that the five submitted false records to acquire citizenship and be able to play in the league.

Taulava still saw action Saturday for Talk 'N Text as the team's representative to the PBA board, Ricky Vargas, maintained that the league's leading candidate for this year's MVP is innocent of the charges until proven otherwise.

Coca-Cola obviously followed this line of reasoning when it fielded Hatfield also Saturday.

But the PBA Players Association headed by former star Jojo Lastimosa and Alvin Patrimonio of Purefoods had announced they would file charges against the five once the Senate recommendation is approved today.

Only Taulava and Hatfield will be affected by Eala's imposition of an old PBA policy. Seigle's team Purefoods is out of the ongoing Invitational championship, Harp is serving an indefinite suspension for failing a mandatory drug test while Ordonio has been placed on the reserve list by Alaska.

TAULAVA

HATFIELD

It was Alaska team owner Wilfred Uytengsu who raised the issue of the P500,000 fine which the league imposed in the case of Sonny Alvarado of Tanduay over the same citizenship issue.

Uytengsu said this was the reason why he immediately removed Ordonio from the active roster of Alaska.

Eala said he would also propose to the board during its meeting today to fine players declared as "Fil-Shams" who will see action in the future.

"But we cannot impose sanction until they're found to be guilty of faking their papers by a court of law," said Eala.

The board also hopes to finally decide today the contract dispute between Air21-Federal Express and Rene Hawkins with officials expecting an amicable settlement.

"We're looking forward to a positive result. We have high hopes that both parties will come to terms and each can go on with their lives happy and satisfied," said PBA chair Jun Cabalan.

Hawkins is also keen on a settlement. "As far as we're concerned we are open to negotiations *para matapos na ang problema na ito*," said Bong Hawkins' wife, Nancy.

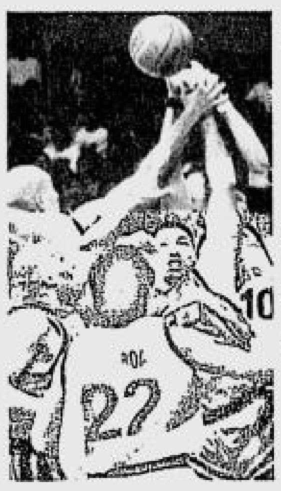
Hawkins is asking for a complete payment on the remaining two years of a four-year contract worth P9.6 million. FedEx inherited the contract of Hawkins after taking over the Tanduay franchise in 2002 but has not activated the 6-foot-4 power forward ever since.

Former PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino ruled that Hawkins should be given the full amount of the contract, a decision which league commissioner Noli Eala has upheld.

But Air21-FedEx president Lito Alvarez appealed the case to the board.

"We are trying to come up with a win-win solution here. I told Bong (Hawkins) that if we prolong the case, both parties will definitely suffer," said Eala.

WHAT'S INSIDE

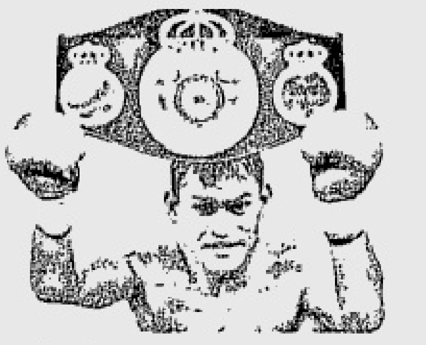


■ Alaska repulses SMB /A26

■ Miñoza pockets P1.56M /A27

■ Clijsters a win away /A28

■ Love steady, maintains 10-pt spread /A29



■ Freitas stops tough Barrios /A31

SPORTS TV

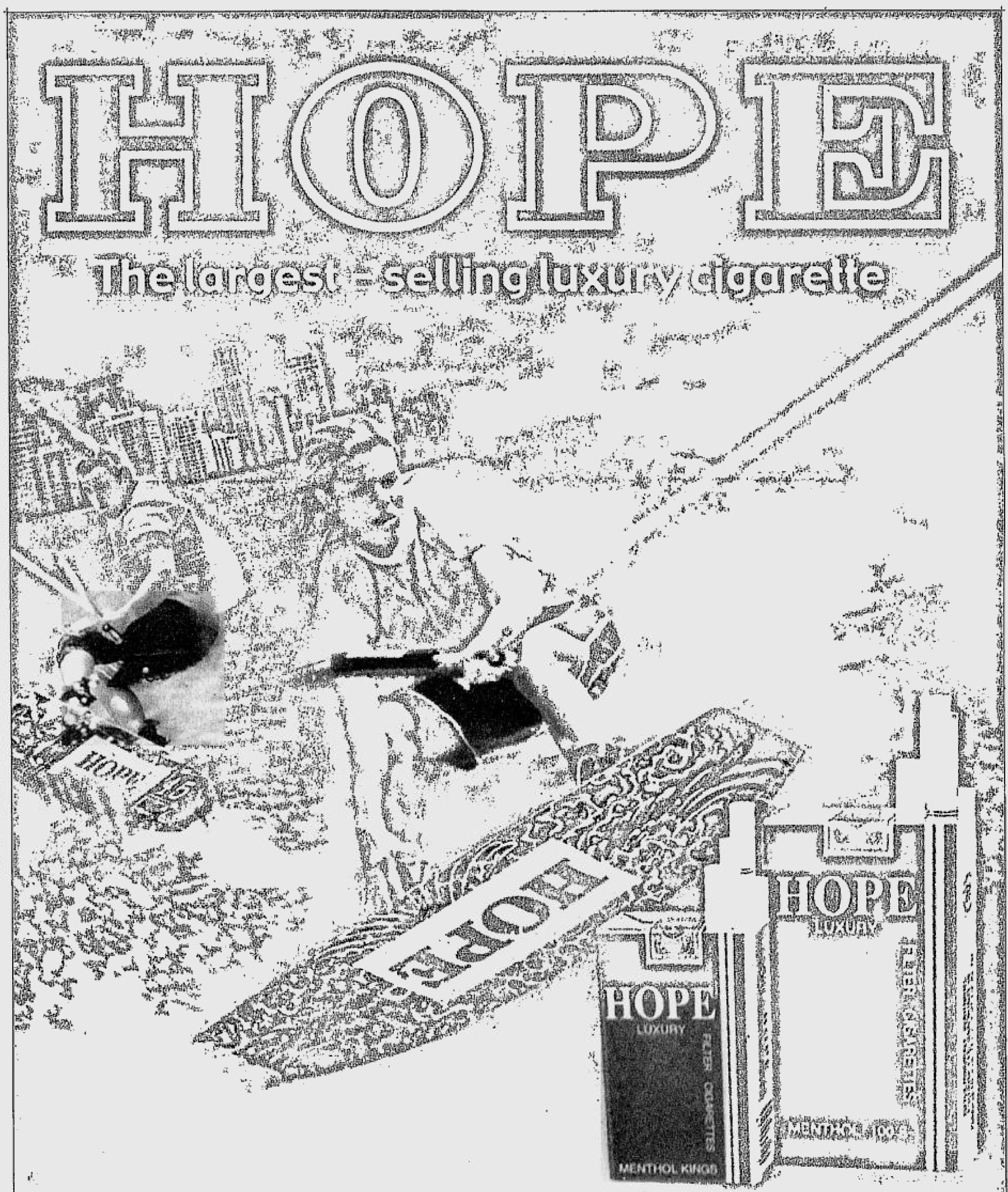
Compiled by L. Mangulat

TENNIS: Montreal Masters; 12:30 p.m. (r-6:30 p.m.); Star Sports; 5:30 p.m.; ESPN—Take a look back at highlights of this recently concluded event in Canada.

Western and Southern Financial Group Masters; 11 p.m.; Star Sports—First round action is served from Cincinnati, Ohio.

GOLF: The International; 1:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. (r); Star Sports-Final Round—Get another look at the final round of this prestigious tournament held at Castle Rock, Colorado.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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Alaska gains, rips San Mig

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
5 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs RP Team
7:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk N Text

By June Navarro

ROOKIE Mike Cortez took over from the injured John Arigo as Alaska made it to the semifinals by drubbing San Miguel Beer, 87-72, last night in the Samsung-PBA Invitational championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Arigo sprained his right ankle during a rebound play midway in the third quarter, forcing the 6-foot-1 Cortez to take matters into his hands.

Cortez scored 11 of his 15 points in the third quarter and combined with Stephen Padilla's torrid shooting as the Aces pulled away for good.

By sweeping the four-game elims in Group B, the Aces will face the No. 2 team in Group A in the crossover semifinals.

With their second defeat in as many games, the Beermen still have a chance to advance into the next phase if the Cebuana Lhuiller RP Team beat the Coca-Cola Tigers on Wednesday.

Otherwise, the Tigers will join the Aces in the next round while the Beermen will be eliminated from the semifinals for the second straight conference.

Earlier, Fash-Novi Sad of Yugoslavia earned the distinction of becoming the only foreign team to secure a victory in the tournament by thrashing Yonsei University of Korea, 100-88.

Fash-Novi Sad ended its stint with a 1-3 record, much better than the winless slates of Yonsei U and Magnolia-Jilin Yi Qi of China.

Scores:

First Game

NOVISAD-YUGOSLAVIA 100— Radovanovic 30, Subasic 22, Beljanski 18, Delic 10, Popovic 8, Todorovic 5, Repac 3, Jelicic 2, Duruvic 2, Vilic 0, Kos 0.

YONSEI 88 —Jin SW 22, Jeon JG 19, Yang HJ 18, Lee JH 15, Lee KJ 12, BVaek JI 5, Kim JH 0.

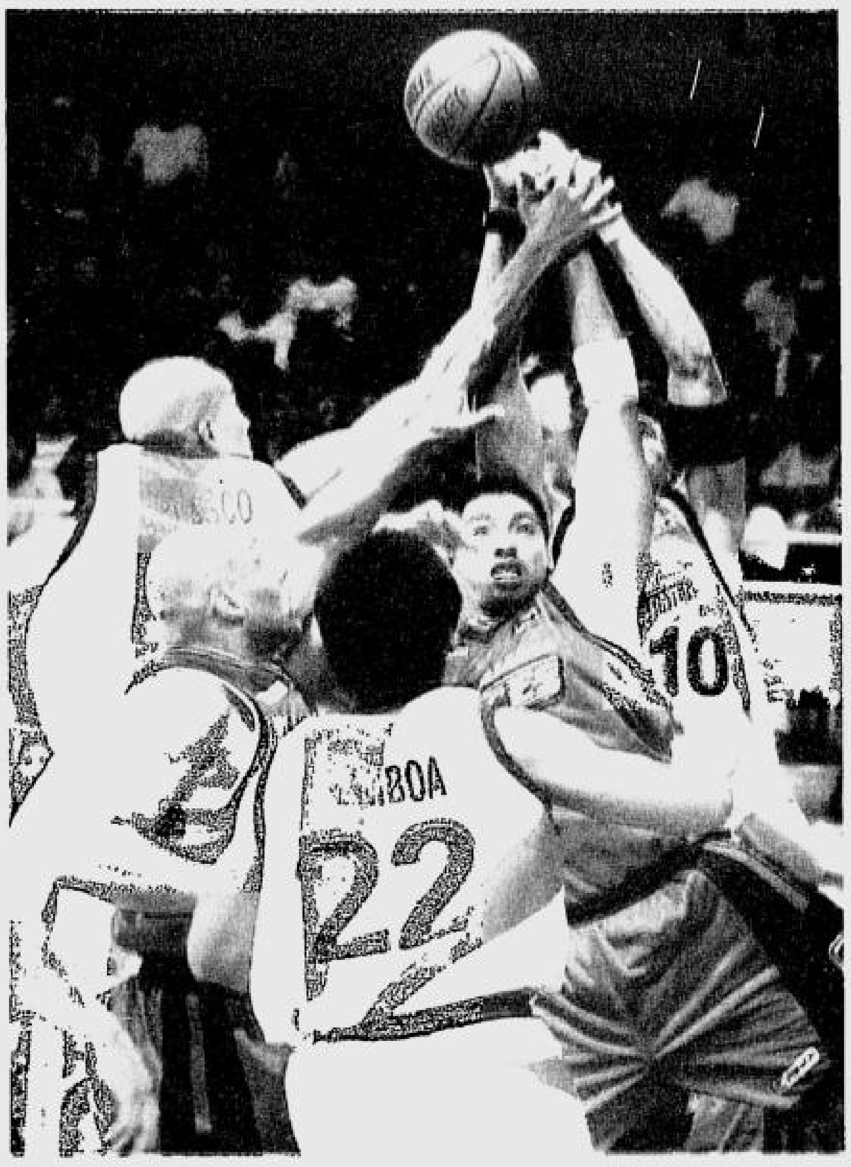
Quarters: 19-23, 50-33, 79-58, 100-88.

Second Game

ALASKA 87—Arigo 18, Cortez 15, Allado 15, Padilla 12, Duat 11, Peek 9, Cablay 2, Feihl 2, Noble 2, Tejada 1.

SAN MIGUEL 72—Gahol 18, Victoria 14, Gamboa 8, Menta 8, Belasco 8, Hontiveros 5, Racela 4, Ildefonso 4, Paras 2, Legaspi 1, Calo 0.

Quarters: 13-19, 33-36, 58-42, 87-72



NO one has possession in this tangle of bodies and arms during the Alaska-San Miguel Invitational game won by the Aces, 87-72, last night. JESS YUSON

Falcons tame Bulldogs in double OT

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
11 a.m.—Adamson vs La Salle (jrs)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs La Salle (srs)
4 p.m.—UP vs UE (srs)
6 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo (jrs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

ROOKIE Karl Kenneth Bono came alive at crunchtime as Adamson continued its revival with a 74-70 double overtime win over National University yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Blue Eagle Gym.

In a clash full of twists and turns, the 6-foot-5 Bono, a prized recruit from Iloilo City, collared the Bulldogs with four straight points in the final 45 seconds as the Falcons survived the loss of main man Mark Abadia, thrown out of the game for incurring two technical fouls in the first overtime.

The boyish-looking Bono, locked in a struggle with veteran Rey Mendoza for supremacy in the shaded lane, sizzled with a 10-footer, and shattered the game's last deadlock with a beautiful, one-handed layup off a timely Patrick Tiongco pass, 72-70, 23.7 seconds remaining.

NU, which absorbed its sixth straight setback after beating UP during the season opener last July 12, crumbled as it committed a 24-second shotclock violation in the ensuing play, leading to a desperation foul by Froilan Baguion on Adamson forward Jeff Tajonera.

With the crowd cheering in approval, Tajonera calmly converted the two free throws as the Falcons registered their first back-to-back win since youthful mentor Luigi Trillo took over as head coach in 2000.

More importantly, Adamson, which shocked Santo Tomas, 60-57, on Aug. 23 at the same venue, evened its record at 3-3.

In the other senior game, University of the East outlasted UST, 73-69, and improved to 4-2 like idle La Salle. UST droplped to 2-4.

SCORES:

Second Game (srs)

ADAMSON 74—Abadia 19, Tagupan 14, Bono 12, Poloyapoy 5, Alonzo 5, Tajonera 4, Gandarosa 4, Hate 4. Catabay 4, Hugnatan 2, Tiongco 1.

NU 70—Mendoza 21, Baguion 15, Tolentino 11, Cajayon 9, Mollena 5, Malcontento 3, Miclat, Catamora 3, Malagueno 0, Catamora Chris 0.

Quarters: 21-15, 32-29, 47-45, 57:57 (reg.). 66-66 (1st OT). 74-70 (2nd OT).

Third game (srs)

UE 73—Yao 24, Omiping 11, Artadi 8, Booker 8, Estrada 6, Canaleta 5, Labagala 4, Tan 3, Butel 3, Masbang 1, Ronquillo 0.

UST 69—Villamin 15, Viscarra 13, De Guzman 11, Espiritu 8, Hubalde 7, Manansala 3, Raterta 2, Luanzon 2, Cortez 1, Evangelista 0.

Quarters: 16-15, 39-36, 56-53, 73-69.

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Eaglets cap big Ateneo day, down Bengals

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE EAGLETS completed a big day for Ateneo Saturday by turning back the La Salle-Zobel Bengals, 79-74, to grab a piece of the lead in the UAAP junior basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Paolo Dizon scattered 19 points, including five triples, while Jose Reyes added 18 as the Eaglets improved to 4-1 and tied the Adamson Baby Falcons after the Eagles had clobbered the Archers, 82-68, earlier.

Reyes' three-point shot with 1:46 remaining stopped the rallying Bengals for good, 76-69.

La Salle, which sorely missed the services of ace playmaker Lope Juban, who suffered cramps halfway through the fourth quarter, dropped to 3-2 in the company of the University of the East Pages.

Juban kept the Bengals in the thick of the fight before leaving the game. He finished with 15 points, including four triples, three assists and seven rebounds.

David Poblete and Manuel Abelardo took over from Juban, but Ken Barracoso, Mark Intal and Dizon responded for Ateneo.

Dizon and Reyes combined for 11 triples. The Eaglets also took care of the ball very well as they committed only 16 turnovers, 12 less than the Bengals.

Ateneo was comfortably ahead, 56-40, in the third quarter, but the 6-foot-5 Abelardo, Simon Atkins, Martin Flores and Juban conspired to bring La Salle within 62-67, 3:52 remaining in the fourth.

Abelardo paced the Bengals with a game-high 25 points.

Scores (Jrs)

ATENEO 79—Dizon 19, Reyes 18, Barracoso 18, Medina 6, Intal 5, Encarnacion 5, Reyes 3, Tingson 2, Audencial 2, Perez J. 1, Lopa 0.

LA SALLE-ZOBEL 74—Abelardo 25, Juban 15, Poblete 11, Atkins 10, Flores 9, Dino 3, Ornedo 1, Roxas 0, Reyes 0, De Asis 0.

Quarters: 17-14, 41-32, 61-52, 79-74.

Beware, the PBA stink bomb

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE TELEVISION eye was savagely candid in yesterday's Freitas-Barrios world junior lightweight boxing championship in Miami, where blood and gore were highlighted to a dismaying degree.

The closeups of the gaping eye cuts, messy with spilled blood, could make even the seasoned boxing aficionado shudder.

That was no longer sweet science, but sweaty savagery played out there at the Crystal Palace.

Funny, but it was surprising that ring officials, mainly the ringside doctor, did not bother to make a check of the glaring cuts in the closing rounds.

The day before, Saturday here in Manila, television also did a most honest job.

Of course, this time, the TV eye again did not blink.

How we wished it had been less candid though when it brutally played up contrasting attendance in two separate venues: the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay and the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

***

For one who had seen it grow in the country's premier sports attraction, we could only offer sympathies to the PBA.

Pardon this, but the attendance at the Astrodome Saturday made the PBA look like a dead league.

The dreary scene at the stands appeared more like a wake.

The fans were so sparse the awful scene could make the TV viewer wonder if pranksters had exploded stink bombs all over the place where the PBA played Saturday.

Out there at the Cubao Big Dome, a lively, full-house crowd went hoarse cheering for both the Ateneo and La Salle squads.

Of course, just like at the Astrodome, the Ateneo-La Salle game at Araneta was anything but close, as the Blue Eagles rode on seasoning and cohesiveness to take control early, before finishing with a grand kick.

***

La Salle lost again but intrepid team supporters sang the school hymn and gave the gallant squad an unforgettable ovation.

You can bet Pinoy sports fanatics know their basketball.

Yes, they could go as wild as regard the game as a religion.

But with all the hysteria attending big, significant basketball matches here, the contrasting scenes of celebration and mourning in the two basketball venues could only make one wonder if basketball fans have lost respect for the PBA.

What clearly stood out Saturday at both the Araneta Coliseum and the Cuneta Astrodome is the fact that the Pinoy fan detests false idols.

***

Look, it was bad enough that the PBA had started to appear like a big drug den following contested urine test results on players which were made public by league officials.

Those highly publicized drug suspicions did make a dent on PBA attendance.

But what could ultimately prove totally damaging is this latest development about a conclusive finding by a Senate committee that several Fil-Am cagers seeing action in the PBA had faked their ancestry.

Not a few PBA fanatics we had spoken to pointed to the latest anomaly as the stink bomb that had prevented them from again attending PBA games.

What's alarming here are efforts by some misinformed sectors that try to discredit the Senate committee finding.

Ourselves alarmed, we had called on the PBA to promptly heed the recommendation of the investigators.

Of course, this has to first go through a judicious process.

***

At least, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala took an honorable stand by promising to take a proactive stand in the case.

Doubly commendable is Fred Uytengsu of Alaska who froze one of his cagers who was found on the list of those who had faked their citizenship papers.

However, the PBA should take extra care if it wants to demonstrate it's capable of some serious house-cleaning.

Here's a tip: the PBA might have to ask itself why an agent of a cager, who had been banned after having used bogus Fil-Am citizenship, is back in town with an import he's peddling to a top club for the next conference.

This, too, stinks.

***

(TERRIFIC TREAT: From Rusty Otico, venerable deskman: Go see Ballet Phils. Darna at CCP. Great show for kids from 6 to 65. Mars Ravelo would have been proud to see his creation leap to life and soar to battle evil.)

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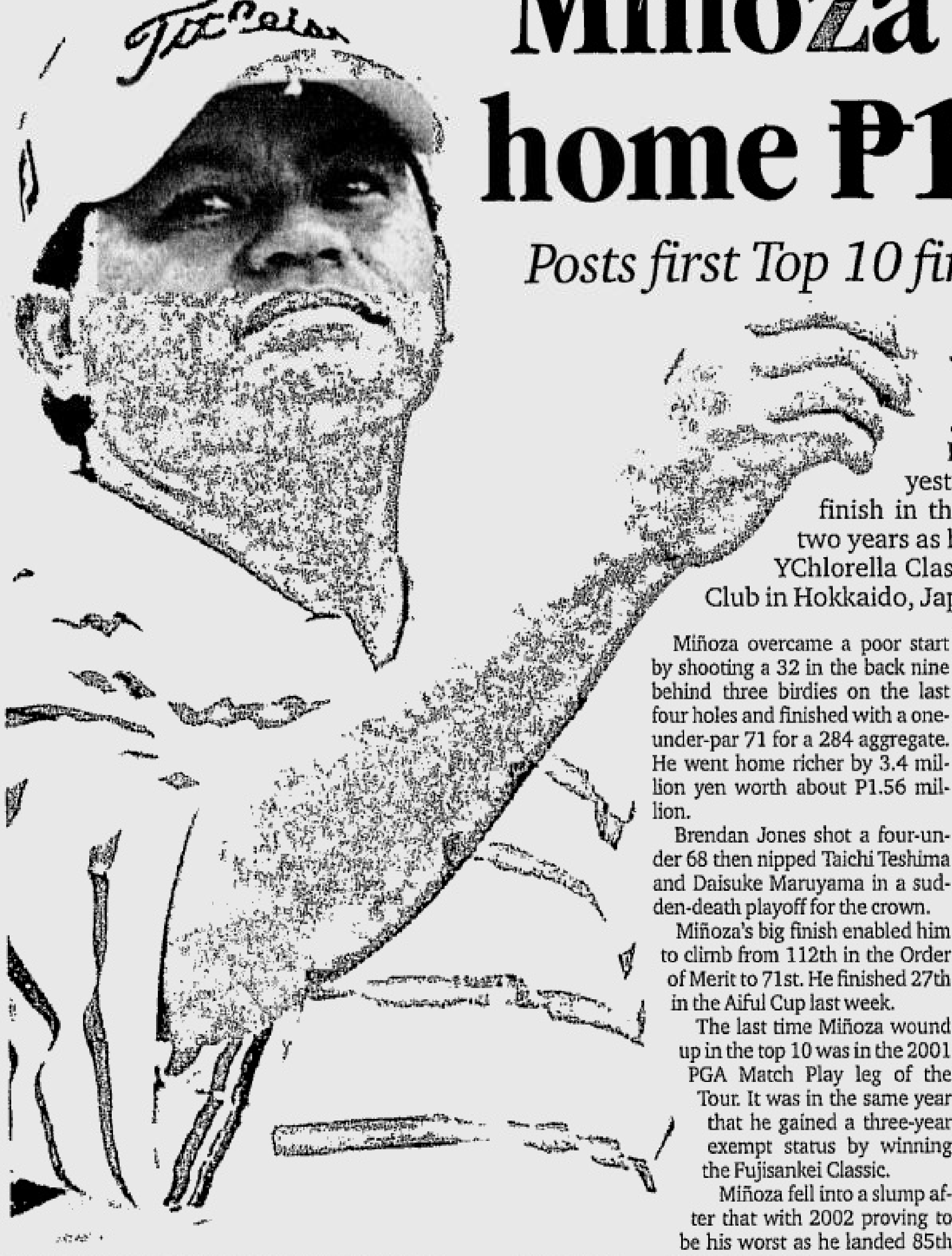
Miñoza takes home ₱1.56M

Posts first Top 10 finish in 2 years



MIÑOZA ties for ninth in SunYChlorella Classic. ROMY HOMILLADA

MISSING in the golf radar for quite sometime now, Frankie Miñoza popped up yesterday with his first top 10 finish in the Japanese Tour in almost two years as he tied for ninth in the SunYChlorella Classic at the Sapporo Bay Golf Club in Hokkaido, Japan.

Miñoza overcame a poor start by shooting a 32 in the back nine behind three birdies on the last four holes and finished with a one-under-par 71 for a 284 aggregate. He went home richer by 3.4 million yen worth about P1.56 million.

Brendan Jones shot a four-under 68 then nipped Taichi Teshima and Daisuke Maruyama in a sudden-death playoff for the crown.

Miñoza's big finish enabled him to climb from 112th in the Order of Merit to 71st. He finished 27th in the Aiful Cup last week.

The last time Miñoza wound up in the top 10 was in the 2001 PGA Match Play leg of the Tour. It was in the same year that he gained a three-year exempt status by winning the Fujisankei Classic.

Miñoza fell into a slump after that with 2002 proving to be his worst as he landed 85th in the money list.

The slump continued in the first half of his campaign this season. Prior to yesterday, he missed the cut six times in 10 events with last week's placing proving to be his best.

A 76 in the opening round Thursday put Miñoza's head on the chopping block again as he stood in 66th place. But he quickly bounced back with a 69 that carried him to 35th and a bogeyless round of 68 on Saturday sent him jumping to 16th.

Miñoza reeled back with bogeys on the second, fifth and seventh before uncorking his back nine charge with a birdie on the 11th. His closing blitz included birdies on the 15th, 17th and 18th.

Jones, who missed the cut last week, redeemed himself by winning the top prize of 26 million yen or about $218,000.

He birdied four of the last six holes. Maruyama led by one going to the final hole but closed out with a bogey. *Jong Arcano*

Pucay tries luck in US

LACK of opportunities on homeground is forcing top pros to try their luck abroad, and Mars Pucay is just about to become one of them.

Pucay is set to leave for the United States next month where he will try to join the Nationwide Tour and the Pepsi Tour.

"Not much is happening here so I think we have to make bold attempts to keep our competitiveness," Pucay said.

Cookie LaO has joined minor events in California in preparation for his crack at the big one.

Ramon Brobio and Carito Villaroman did the same in the PGA Tour last year but were not too successful. *Jong Arcano*

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Riviera, Northwoods duel for semis slot

GAME TOMORROW
Manila Golf vs. Eastridge

SANGIL: Riviera's main cog.

RIVIERA and Royal Northwoods overcame their final opponents in the eliminations with relative ease over the weekend to arrange a showdown in the quarterfinals of the Federation Golf League in various venues.

Riviera got an extra point for trashing also-ran Sta. Elena, 3.5-.5, while Northwoods turned back Canlubang, 3-1, to clinch the top two seats in Group III and advance to the next round.

However, Riviera's domination of Sta. Elena, which pulled off the season's biggest upset last week by derailing Sherwood Hills' bid to advance, was not enough to give it a shot at an automatic semis slot.

Forest Hills already had cornered one of the two outright seats in the semis after topping Group II.

Defending champion Manila Golf and Eastridge are set to dispute the other slot tomorrow with the loser going into a knockout match with Alabang in another quarterfinal tiff.

Ray Sangil and Migs Garcia highlighted the Riviera win by disposing off their high-low rivals in just 11 holes. Eric Escalona-IG Gutierrez and Danny Pizarro-Eric Gozo followed suit with victories in the aggregate and scramble formats while Philip Judan-Ed Kalaw secured the extra point with a draw in best ball.

Northwoods needed just a draw against Canlubang but wasn't in the mood to take it easy.

Rodel Mangulabnan-Boy Unson (high-low) and Oma Dungca-Tony Pancho (scramble) won the full points and draws in best ball and aggregate by Kim Chang Hoi-Lito Cruz and Danny Dalija-Bong de Guzman completed the victory. *Jong Arcano*

La Salle chessers rip UE, take command

Standings after Round 3

Men: 9.5 points La Salle, 8.5 UP, 8 UST, 6 Ateneo, 5.5 UE, 4 Adamson, 3.5 NU, 3 FEU

Women: 10.5 UP, 8.0 La Salle, 5.5 UST, 4 UE, 3.5 FEU, 3.5 Ateneo, 1 NU

Mixed Juniors: 5.5 Ateneo, 5.5 NU, 4 UE, 1 UST, 0 La Salle.

LA SALLE'S defending champion pawnpushers scored a second straight sweep after routing Adamson, 4-0, yesterday to seize the men's division lead after three rounds of the UAAP chess team championship at the University of the East (UE) Briefing Room.

National Master John Paul Gomez, the two-time national junior champion handling the the white pieces, outplayed Gregorio Obogne in 26 moves of the Sicillian Defense in Board 1 to spark the Archers' victory which gave them 9.5 points, one point ahead of State U.

Joaquin "Jake" Banawa (Board 2), Irwin Aton (Board 3) and Jayson Salubre (Board 4) also won their matches to complete the sweep for the Archers, who blanked Ateneo in their previous outing.

Banawa beat Ryan Dungca after 34 moves of a Reti Opening, Aton crushed Rafael Urgel after 28 moves of a Caro Kann Defense and Salubre survived Junan Valeros after a marathon 55 moves of a Sicilian.

State U climbed to solo second place with 8.5 points as Board 2 player Carl Espallardo registered the only win in a 2.5-1.5 conquest of a resilient National U. Espallardo defeated Edilberto Labuag in 50 moves of a King's Indian Defense.

NM Bob Jones Liwagon, Froilan Bolico III and Arnold Dableo won their respective matches to power Santo Tomas, which upset La Salle in the first round, past University of the East.

Mark Oliver Incad stole the only full point for the Red Warriors by upsetting Jan Vincent Paragua in Board 3 after 40 moves of a French Defense.

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Martina questions Williams sisters' absences

LOS ANGELES—Tennis legend Martina Navratilova has accused the Williams sisters of taking more time off than necessary from the WTA Tour.

"Even without an injury they (Serena and Venus) pulled out of more tournaments in one year than I did in my career," said Navratilova, who has captured a record 167 WTA singles titles and 18 Grand Slams in her 21 years of playing singles.

Speaking after her doubles victory at the Los Angeles WTA event, Navratilova said the Tour's marquee players should play at least 15 tournaments a year. Navratilova mentioned Serena's knee surgery but said the sisters were withdrawing from tournaments even before their recent injuries.

"I think they (Williams sisters) don't play enough and the other women play too much. I think for the top players the number is between 15-18 tournaments," said Navratilova.

Venus has played just 10 events in the past 12 months while Serena has played 12 and only seven this year. *AFP*

CLIJSTERS hits a forehand to Schiavone.

REUTERS

NO.1 RANKING

Clijsters a win away

LOS ANGELES—Top seed Kim Clijsters moved another step closer to the world No. 1 ranking by beating Italy's Francesca Schiavone, 7-5, 6-4 on Saturday in the semifinals of the 635,000 dollar WTA Los Angeles event.

The 20-year-old Belgian will be joined in Sunday's final by former world No. 1 Lindsay Davenport who beat Japan's Ai Sugiyama.

Clijsters must beat the second seed Davenport in order to pass injured Serena Williams for top spot in the rankings.

"If it happens that would be great," said Clijsters. "That will motivate me more tomorrow."

"But I still have to focus on winning first and getting that good feeling."

"Then I can think about the other things." If Clijsters beats Davenport she would end Williams' 57 weeks at the top spot and become the first woman to reach No. 1 without winning a Grand Slam tournament.

Davenport, who was ranked No. 1 in the world in October 1998, cruised past Sugiyama, 6-2, 6-1 on Saturday's day match.

Clijsters has been bombarded all week with questions about nearing No. 1. There are three Belgian television stations following her every move through the west coast swing of the US hardcourt season.

This will be the second meeting in as many weeks between Davenport and Clijsters. Clijsters beat Davenport, 6-3, 6-3 in the semifinals of the San Diego WTA event and has won five of the last six meetings.

"I will have to play better against Lindsay than I did today," said Clijsters. "I will have to make her move. She is fitter than she has ever been but I think that is where she is beatable." "I will fight until it is over and give everything I have." *AFP*

Phelps

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Vengeful Roddick spoils Federer bid in Montreal

MONTREAL—Andy Roddick advanced to the final of the Montreal Masters after a nail-biting win over Roger Federer, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 on Saturday, depriving the Wimbledon champion of the opportunity to oust Andre Agassi from the world number one ranking.

Roddick will face world number 21 David Nalbandian in the final of the $2.45 million tournament, after the unseeded Argentine rallied from a set down to beat German eighth seed Rainer Schuettler, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

The 20-year-old American, who had never before beaten Federer, his Wimbledon semifinals tormentor, was down a break and trailing 4-2 in the third, but rallied past Federer 7-3 in the tie-break when the 22-year-old double-faulted and made four unforced errors.

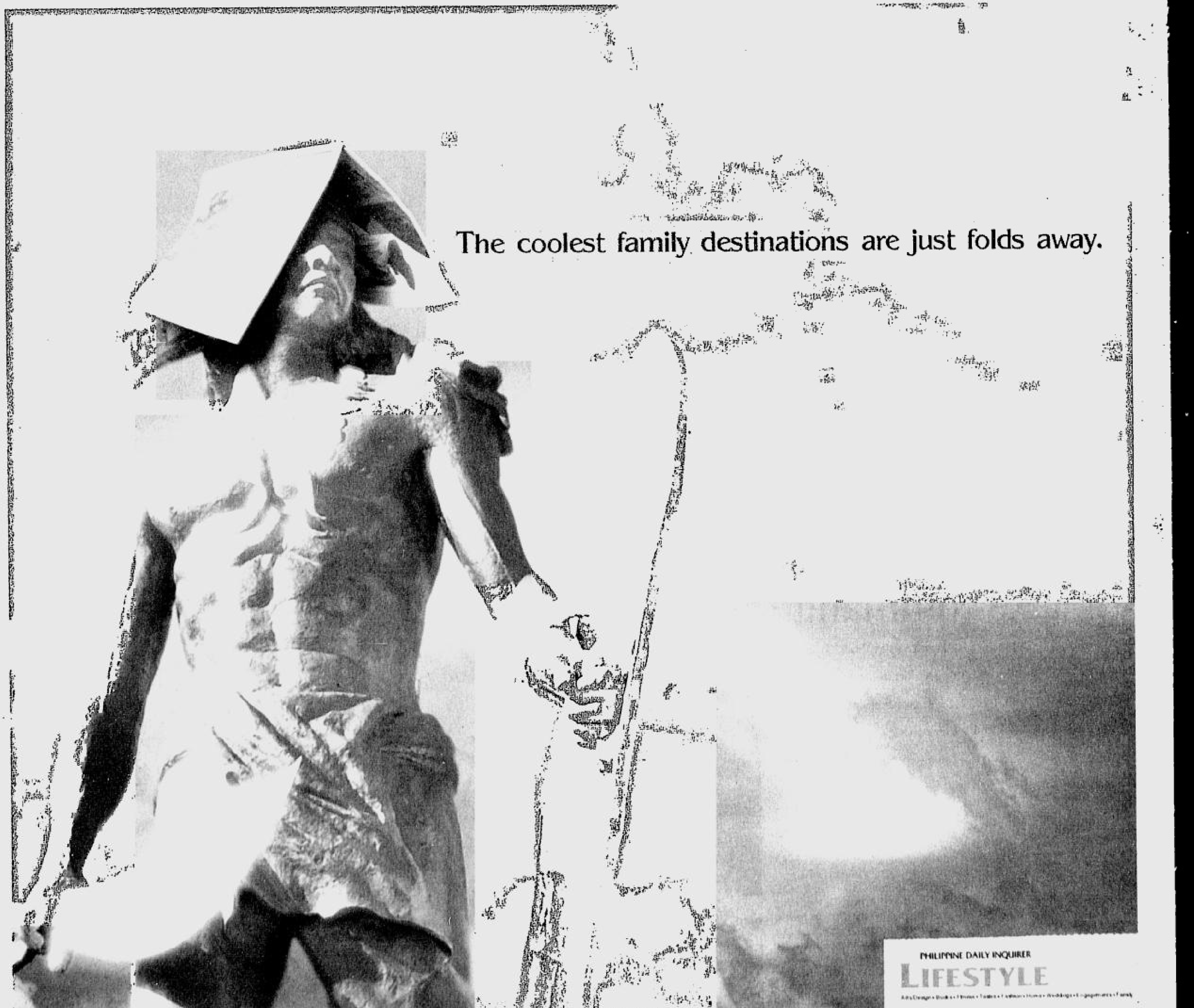
"It was nice, it was definitely not looking good for a while," Roddick said.

Roddick felt the turning point came in the third set when he had to hit a half-volley from between his legs while rushing to the net. The ball landed in and the crowd erupted in awe.

"I guess it was just reaction. It was either that or get hit in the nuts (testicles)," said Roddick. "But you know, that definitely took the edge off, it was kind of fun."

Fourth seeded Federer traded nine aces with Roddick during the match, but had 10 double faults, compared to only two for the sixth-seeded American.

Federer, who will move ahead of French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero to second in the world when the new rankings are released, could have also displaced Agassi if he had beaten Roddick. *Reuters*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Barcelona, where Phelps smashed an unprecedented five world records.

"Wow. That's all I can say," Phelps said. "I shocked myself for sure." It was the fourth time since June 29 that Phelps has broken the 200 IM world record, which until six weeks ago was 1:58.16 by Finland's Jani Sievinen at Rome in 1994.

Phelps reached the halfway mark in 54.03 seconds, .30 of a second under his old world-record split.

"I said, 'I'm going out after it. I'm going out in 54 and try to hang on,'" Phelps said. "I left it all in the pool." Phelps does not plan another competitive swim until November in a World Cup event at Melbourne, Australia. But his fantastic finish here will help bring him back into the pool to resume training next week after a brief break.

"Ending on this note fires you up a good bit," Phelps said. "Having this as my last swim is going to get me back in the water to practice. In the past few weeks I have been through a lot." The victory also made Phelps the first man to capture five individual titles at a US long-course meet. All of them came in personal bests. Phelps also won the 100, 200 and 400 freestyles and 200 backstroke here. *AFP*

PHELPS

Sorenstam down by 2 in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Annika Sorenstam was two strokes off the lead after three rounds at the HP Open, with Sophie Gustafson in front following a course-record 9-under-par 63 Saturday.

Gustafson made nine birdies and parred the other nine holes on the Drottningholm course near the Royal castle. Sorenstam, playing in her native Stockholm for the first time since 1999, shot a 67 after 68s the first two days.

Gustafson, a Swede who won the Irish Open in June, was at 15-under 201 and could have had an even better score.

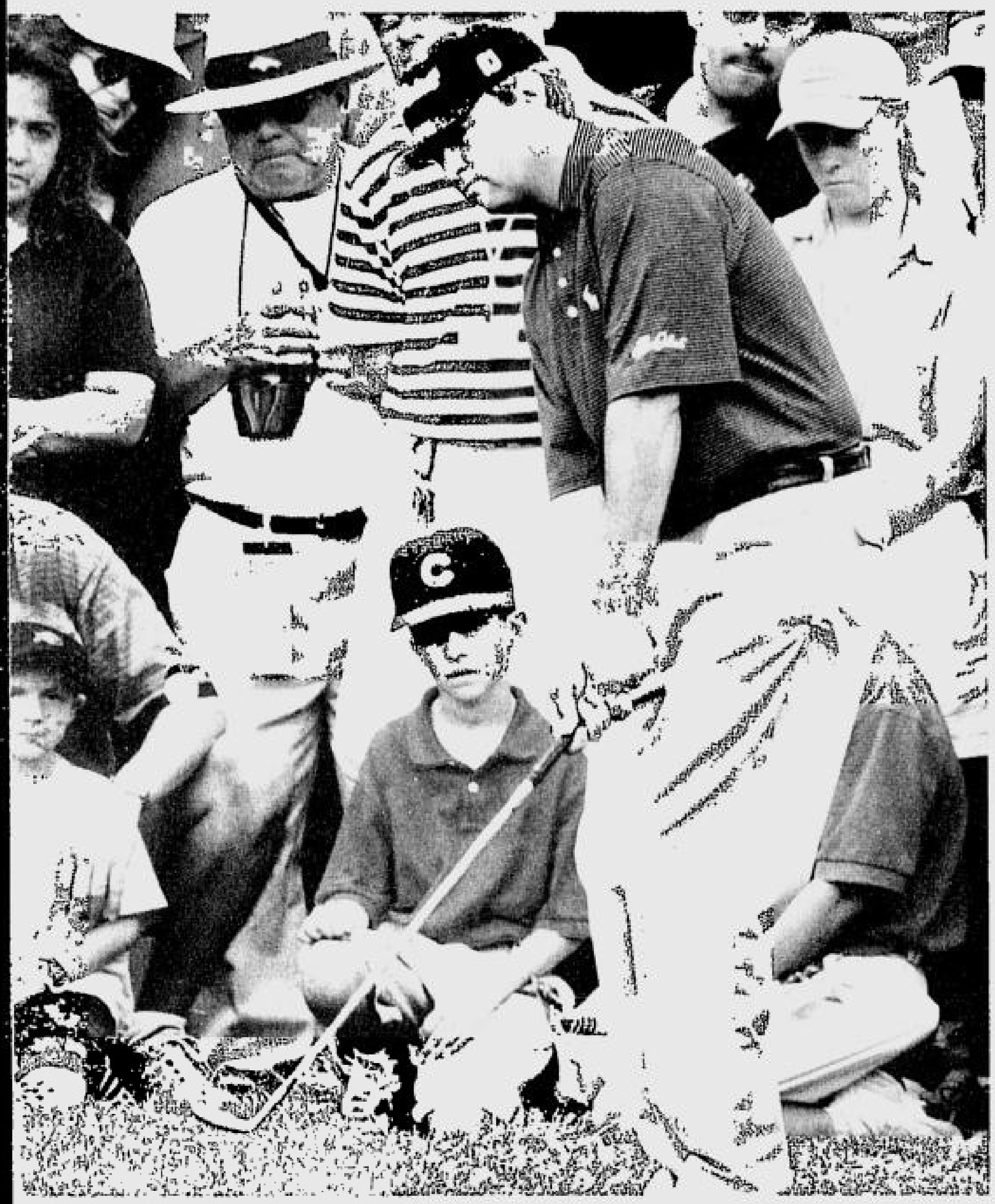
"I had three other pretty good birdie chances," she said.

Vibeke Stensrud of Norway was third at 205 after a 66. Laura Davies of England shared fourth at 206 with Becky Morgan of Wales and Silvia Cavalleri, the Italian LPGA player who led after two rounds.

Sorenstam was tied for the lead with Gustafson after 14 holes. But the world's top female player sent a shot past the green at No. 15, chipped back and two-putted for a bogey.

"Naturally, you want to lead the golf tournament, but Sophie really played well today," said Sorenstam, who hit 16 greens Saturday. "But tomorrow it really counts and I'm in a good position. I think I'll need a 65 to win and hopefully I'll shoot lower than today."

Sorenstam completed a career Grand Slam by winning the British Open last week. *AP*


e chip from the rough to the seventh green. AP

Kung shares lead despite putting woes

DUBLIN, Ohio—Just wait until Candie Kung finds the range with her putter.

Kung missed seven birdie putts inside 15 ft and still put together a 3-under-par 69 Saturday that gave her a share of the lead with Hee-Won Han through two rounds of the Wendy's Championship for Children.

"I couldn't get the ball close today," Kung said. "I could get it inside 15 feet, but not close enough for birdies."

Kung's 69 left her at 11-under 133. She opened with a career-best 64 Friday, her 22nd birthday.

Han, second a year ago at the Wendy's to Mi Hyun Kim, followed a 67 with a bogey-free 65.

Ohio native Michele Redman eagled her final hole to set the course record with a 63 and move into third place at 10 under.

Former winners Wendy Ward (2001) and Lori Kane (2000) were in a group at 8 under. Ward had a 67, Kane and Scotland's Catriona Matthew each shot 68, and Jill McGill 69.

Heavy fog caused a delay of 1 hour, 15 minutes for morning groups. In the afternoon, threatening weather resulted in a 52-minute suspension.

"We heard some rumbles as we were coming down 17 and we said, 'Oh, no, not that again,'" Ward said.

Kung, a native of Taiwan who went to Southern Cal and now lives in California, built her lead to three shots with a lob wedge to 3 ft for birdie at the par-5 11th hole. But her first bogey of the tournament came on the next hole, when she hit her approach into the water. She salvaged the bogey by taking a drop from 166 yards out and hitting to 3 ft again.

A 4-ft birdie putt on the last hole got her to 11 under, where she was matched by Han moments later.

Han birdied three of the final four holes. She rolled in a 20-footer at the par-3 15th, then made a pair of 8-ft putts on the closing holes.

Both Kung and Han are seeking their second wins of the year. *AP*

Love steady as he goes, maintains 10-pt spread

CASTLE ROCK, Colorado—Davis Love III played steady, conservative golf to maintain his 10-point lead Saturday in The International.

Using long irons off most tees, Love avoided trouble in his 5-point round, increasing his total to 41 points under the modified Stableford scoring system used in this event.

Love, who began the day with 36 points and a 10-point lead, had three birdies and one bogey. His lead was up to 11 points and never less than 8.

John Rollins also earned 5 points and remained in second place with 31 points. Vijay Singh was third with 28 after a 9-point round.

Chris DiMarco and Retief Goosen each had 26 points, and Phil Mickelson had an up-and-down round to finish at 23. J.J. Henry was at 22, and Charles Howell III had 21.

The scoring system gives players 8 points for a double eagle, 5 points for an eagle, 2 points for birdie, zero for par, minus-1 for bogey and minus-3 for double bogey or worse. Rich Beem won last year with a four-round total of 44 points, including 19 on Sunday.

The field, cut after 36 holes, was trimmed again to the low 36 players and ties for Sunday's final round.

Rollins birdied the first hole, cutting Love's lead to 8 points. But Rollins then bogeyed No. 4 and Love birdied No. 5, pushing the lead to 11 points.

When Rollins bogeyed No. 7, he slipped back into a tie for second place with Singh, who birdied four of his first seven holes to get to 26 points.

Rollins birdied No. 8, but Love made a 6-foot birdie putt at No. 9 and made the turn with an 11-point advantage.

Both players birdied No. 10 with short putts, and Rollins cut the lead to 9 points with an 8-foot birdie putt on the par-5 14th hole, while Love chipped poorly and settled for par.

Love and Rollins squandered birdie opportunities at the short par-5 17th hole, missing the green with their iron shots and making pars.

Love, who had saved par from the sand at No. 13, did so again on the 18th hole, making an uphill 4-footer. Meanwhile, Rollins three-putted, missing a curling 3-footer and taking bogey.

Mickelson made an early move, getting to 23 points through three holes. But he double-bogeyed Nos. 4 and 5 and needed four birdies on the back nine to recover. *AP*

Hot Hansen ties Monty at top

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—Soren Hansen tied the course record with a 10-under-par 62 Saturday and shared the third-round lead with Colin Montgomerie at the inaugural Nordic Open.

Montgomerie, playing his first event after pulling out of the British Open last month with a hand injury after just seven holes, shot a 64 on Simon's Golf Club, one of the easiest on the European Tour.

Hansen, born in Copenhagen, and Monty had 54-hole totals of 199, 17-under par.

Hansen had 10 birdies as he tied the course record set by France's Raphael Jacquelin on Thursday.

"I felt confident from the start of the week because it's my home course and I know every bump," Hansen said. "Playing with Colin the first two days was the best thing that could have happened. It got me relaxed."

France's Gregory Havret, who led at the halfway point, shared third at 200 two Englishmen, Ian Poulter and David Gilford.

Brian Davis, another Englishman, was another shot back with Sweden's Patrik Sjoland. *AP*

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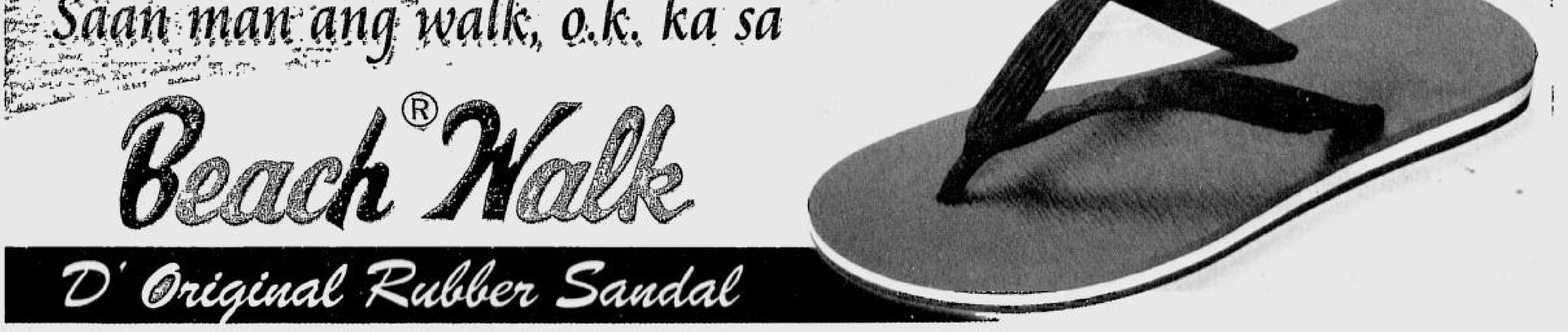
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Mayol to fight OPBF champ

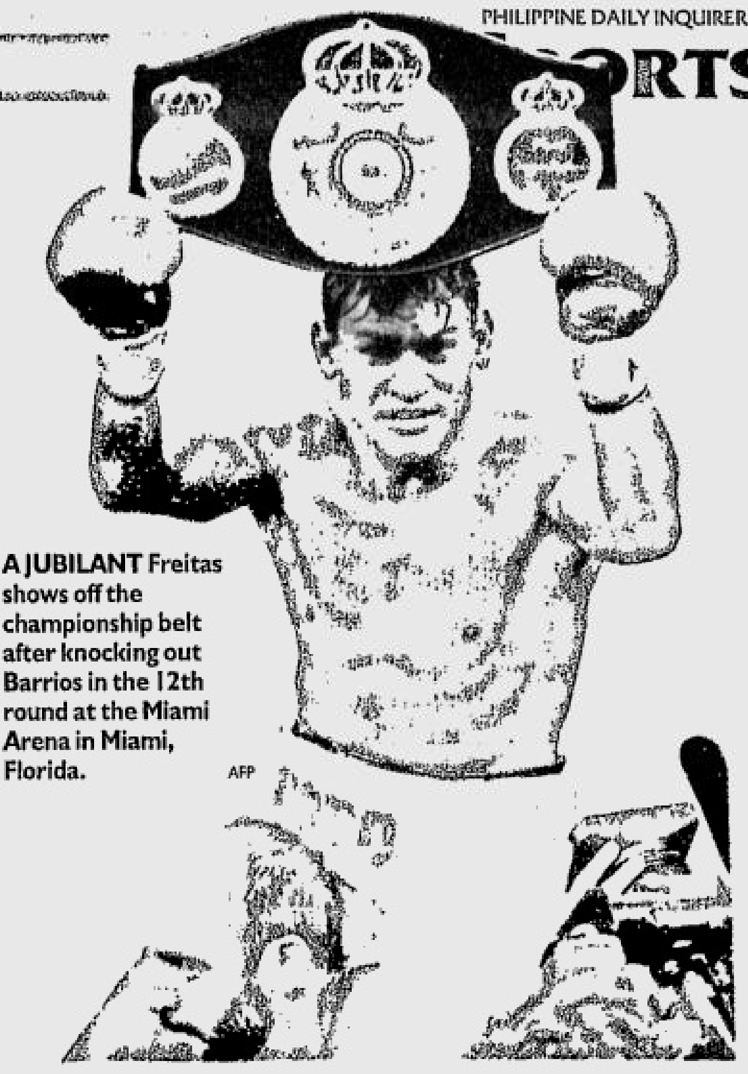
PHILIPPINE minifly champion Rodel "Batang Mandaue" Mayol goes for the big-time when he challenges Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation minimumweight king Genki Ohnaka of Japan for the title on Nov. 24 in Fukuoka, Japan.

Mayol, undefeated in 13 fights with 10 KOs and currently ranked World Boxing Council No. 4, is scheduled to see action in a 10-round tune-up bout on Sept. 6 against Thai Phalangchai Sor Voraphin in Ormoc City.

"It's definite. Mayol will be going to Japan to challenge the OPBF champion. But he needs to hurdle his Sept. 6 opponent," said Terry Carter, Mayol's chief backer, in an interview with the INQUIRER at the Liloan-based Stonewall Boxing Club.

Mayol, from Mandaue City, last saw action in April this year, decisioning Isidro Lorona at the Cantada Sports Complex. Prior to that, the power-punching Mayol blasted Thai Chiochan Buasowan in two rounds.

Mayol is currently training under Juanito Ablaca. He's been sparring against Paba light fly boss Marvin Tampus, IBF No. 6 junior fly Wendel Janiola, and hot prospect Benedict "Matinik" Suico. *Salven L. Lagumbay*



A JUBILANT Freitas shows off the championship belt after knocking out Barrios in the 12th round at the Miami Arena in Miami, Florida. AFP

Freitas stops tough Barrios

MIAMI—Undefeated Acelino Freitas of Brazil stopped Jorge Barrios of Argentina 50 seconds into the 12th round here Saturday to keep his World Boxing Asociation super featherweight crown.

Freitas rose to 34-0 with his 31st early stoppage, making the third defense of the title he took with a unanimous decision over then-undefeated Cuban Joel Casamayor in January of 2002. Barrios fell to 39-2 with one draw.

Freitas won despite being knocked down twice by Barrios, who suffered a ruptured left eardrum and struggled with two bleeding gashes over his left eye in the matchup of hard-punching 27-year-old South Americans.

"I was winning the fight," Freitas said. "The ear was no problem but I couldn't see out of my left eye." Judges' scorecards entering the final round showed one for Freitas, one for Barrios and a third rating the fight even. But the champion knocked his rival down twice in the final round to deny the judges a say in the verdict.

"I wasn't worried about the scorecards," Freitas said. "I knew that Barrios was a tough fighter. I wanted to be careful. I didn't finish him in the third round like I wanted. After that, I decided I wanted to punish him." A barrage of brutal blows by a bloodied Barrios paid off in the 11th round when he sent the champion to the mat for the second time in the fight, knocking down Freitas 40 seconds into the round with a left jab and solid right.

Freitas had slipped and gone down 20 seconds before the end of the eighth round but Barrios landed a modest left at the right moment so the fall was ruled a knockdown. *AFP*

SPORTSWATCH

Eala Forum guest

A BUSY PSA Forum is in store tomorrow at the Manila Pavilion with Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Noli Eala as main guest. Eala is expected to delve on the deportation proceedings recommended by the Senate on five players who failed to establish their Filipino roots. To share the limelight with Eala are officials of the 2003 JVC Badminton Championships led by Gen. Edgar Aglipay, vice president of the Philippine Badminton Association, tournament director Nelson Asuncion, Princess Galura of the International Management Group and National players Kenevic and Kenie Asuncion. Also on hand in the public sports program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor are Larry Li, advertising manager of Tanduay, marketing manager Rolly Baron and RP and Asian snooker champion Marlon Manalo, who will talk about the Corporate Billiards Tournament as well as Fr. Paul de Vera and Fe Pabanal Median to discuss the coming National Collegiate Athletic Association South.

Showdown at Roligon

PROMOTERS expect more than 80 entries to vie in the annual Ray Showdown 7-Stag National Derby on Sept. 2 and 4 at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Danny Ty and Romero Yu said they are counting on the support of big-time and medium-scale gamefowl breeders in the Showdown derby that stakes a guaranteed prize pot of P1 million. The entry fee is P18,000 and the minimum bet P7,700. "Last year, there were 86 participants. The derby is now in its 16th year and one of the longest-running stagfests in the country," Roligon manager Ty said. Screeners Mimi Itchon and Juancho Aguirre are conducting farm-to-farm checks. Screening is also scheduled at Roligon every Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Interested parties may contact 833-2275 or 833-1638 for details. Scheduled on Sept. 16, 18 and 20 is the "Stag Festival 5—Stag Derby" which has a guaranteed pot of P1.2 million on a P6,600 entry fee. Host is Rolly Ligon, who recently hosted the 293-entry "Hattah-Hattah 5-Cock Derby."

It's stag derby time

SEVERAL closing events of the cock season across the country are being backed by Thunderbird Hi-Protein Power Pellets as competition moves from cockfighting to stag fighting. The protein-rich molt-time feed component is sponsoring the Combado 3-Cock Fiesta Derby at the Maasin City Sports and Recreational Center in Leyte hosted by the Maasin City Cockers and Mayor Damian Mercado on Aug. 15 and the Special 3-Cocker derby at El Salvador Cockpit in Misamis Oriental the next day. Bexan-XP is also backing a two-day 4-cocker in the Cagayan de Oro Sports Complex on Aug. 22 and 23, and a 3-cock derby at the New Toril Sports Complex in Davao City on Aug. 23. Meanwhile, Mayor Nene Aguilar of Las Piñas City will hold his annual 6-stag contest at the New Las Piñas Cockpit on Aug. 25 and 27 with a guaranteed cash prize of P1 million.

Dog group elects officers

THE CENTRAL Luzon German Shepherd Dog Association (CLGSDA) was formed recently with Gabin Chong elected as president for year 2003-2004. Other newly elected officers are Jose Ma. Hizon, first vice president; Marikina vice mayor Marion Andres, second vice president; Rivo Nise, third vice president; Analiza Andaya, secretary; Tony de los Santos, treasurer; Dennis Dizon, auditor, Ed Andaya, PRO; and lawyer Jesse Andres, legal counsel. The board of directors are Eric Miranda, Ricky Chua, Jeffery Morelos, Allan de los Santos, Eduardo Gallardo, Jason Maximino Ongpeng and Samuel Chua.

RP lift bet misses medal

BALI, Indonesia—Southeast Asian Games-bound Jomar Vafoloreyes blew a chance of winning a medal even as two other Filipinos crashed out Saturday in the Asian Juniors Weightlifting Championships at the Grand Bali Beach Hotel and Resort here. Vafoloreyes, a 17-year-old upstart from Zamboanga City, set himself up for a possible bronze medal in the clean and jerk of the men's 62-kg play after lifting 137.5 kg on his second try. However, a botched attempt to hoist 142-kg on his last try dashed the soft-spoken Filipino's hopes of finishing third behind China's Du Bing Hao (145-kg) and Korea's Lee Se Min (142.5-kg).

DNH seizes Coke crown on 'golden goal'

TAGUM CITY—Davao National High banked on a "golden goal" by Raynel Largo to dethrone Jose Tuason National High, 2-1, in the Davao Norte finals of the 20th Coke Go for Goal under-16 football tournament at the Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario turf here.

Largo struck in the 94th minute after receiving a pass from Arjun Nedvelan, who eluded his guards.

Earlier, Sto. Tomas High beat Tagum National High, 3-1, to clinch third place.

Nedvelan, who scored a hat-trick against Sto. Tomas in the semifinals, broke the ice in the 24th minute with a powerful center blast from 10 yards.

Last year's champs finally tied the score in the 50th on Rogelito Conde's follow-up shot off a Julkair Sakurat miss.

The game was extended when both teams failed to break the tie in regulation.

Over in Mabini, Compostela Valley, Maco National High won the title for the third straight year by blanking Pindasan National High, 3-0.

Manuel Nacario, Bern Manique and Erwin Giganto scored a goal each for Maco.

Host Mabini National High claimed third place by whipping Anislagan National High, 2-0, on goals by Reynaldo Manos and John del Sumatra in the 13th and 49th minutes, respectively.

Maco and Davao High advanced to the all-Davao sub-regional finals set here in November.

Holders Kaputian National High led the opening-day winners in the Garden Island of Samal eliminations. Kaputian nipped Ballet National High, 1-0.

In other games, Cogon National High nosed out Samal National High, 1-0; St. Cruz High beat Samal Institute, 2-0; Villamor edged University of Mindanao, 1-0; and Babak toppled Penaplata High, 2-0.

Big kick for football

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FOOTBALL, a sport tailor-made for the medium-built Filipinos, hardly gets special treatment from the Philippine media unlike basketball which always gets top priority.

This is very unfortunate.

But despite the lack of media appreciation, football is lucky enough to count with a respectable number of adherents, including the greatest Filipino basketball player of all time, Carlos Loyzaga, who once said it was wrong to prioritize basketball over the other sports "because there are other sporting disciplines where the Filipino athletes have a better chance of winning international honors." The 72-year-old Loyzaga, who sparked the Philippines to third place in the World Basketball Championship in Rio de Janeiro in 1954, is now based in Australia where he underwent a heart bypass operation recently.

In the Philippines, football is alive and kicking, thanks largely to Coke Go-for-Goal, the country's longest-running youth sports program. Launched in 1984, the under-16 football tournament initially attracted 80 teams. Today, on its 20th season, some 400 teams are competing in the multi-awarded program under the guidance of lawyer Rene Adad, former Philippine branch manager of the Coca-Cola Export Corp. and now president of the Philippine Football Federation. This year's Coke Go-for-Goal got going last week in Mindanao.

La Salle Academy of Iligan won the national championship early this year, nosing out highly favored NCR titlist Ateneo, 5-3, at the jam-packed Silliman Stadium in Dumaguete City. With the mesmeric victory, La Salle Iligan became the first national champion team from Mindanao, joining past winners Negros Oriental's Silliman University and NCR's De La Salle Zobel (three times); Negros Occidental's West Negros College and Iloilo's Barotac Nuevo National Comprehensive High, Sta. Barbara National Comprehensive and Central Philippines University (two times) and one-time winners NCR's Don Bosco Youth Center, Cebu's Salazar Institute of Technology, Iloilo's St. Paul School Barotac Nuevo and Negros Oriental National High.

Coke Go-for-Goal does not promise instant fame or fortune, but it offers the lifetime reward of discipline, sportsmanship and fair play to the youthful players, most of whom come from impoverished public schools.

"Coke Go-for-Goal is truly the program of the future," said Adad. "It is the living symbol of a genuine grassroots sports development program based on the idea that people even from dramatically diverse backgrounds can play to win and play fair; it is a program that bridges the gap between rich and poor, between a wide variety of ethnic groups."

THE PAST OLYMPIANS. In my last piece on the outstanding Olympians of the modern era (PDI, Aug. 6), the star of the 1948 Games in London should have read Fanny Blankers-Koen and not "Blankore Kose," as erroneously published. Then 30 years old (not 39), Blankers-Koen won four gold medals. In her time, she established 16 world records in eight different events . . . In the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, a brilliant runner, Emil Zatopek of Czechoslovakia, topped the lung-busing 5,000m, 10,000m and the marathon in a smashing show of stamina and speed . . . Australian Dawn Fraser made the biggest splash in the 1956 Melbourne Games. She was the first of three female swimmers to win eight Olympic gold medals, achieving the feat in 1956 (Melbourne), 1960 (Rome) and 1964 (Tokyo), including three consecutive golds in the 100m freestyle . . . The Games of 1960 in Rome were blessed by Pope John XXIII and with a host of legends, among them American track star Wilma Rudolph, who won three gold medals, Ethiopian runner Abebe Bikila, who raced barefoot over the cobblestones of the Apian Way to rule the marathon; and a young American boxer named Cassius Clay, who won the light heavyweight title. Clay, who later changed his name to Muhammad Ali, eventually became world heavyweight boxing champion.

Elizalde appoints new coach

SANTI Elizalde, president of the National Capital Region Football Association (NCRFA), vowed to prepare the best team possible for the Under-19 Adidas Cup in October.

After arriving from a US trip, Elizalde convened the NCRFA board and got them to agree to appoint Kaya sweeper and University of the East head coach Lloyd Lim as the man-in-charge of the squad tasked to bring home the coveted Adidas trophy.

Lim led UE to the UAAP title last year.

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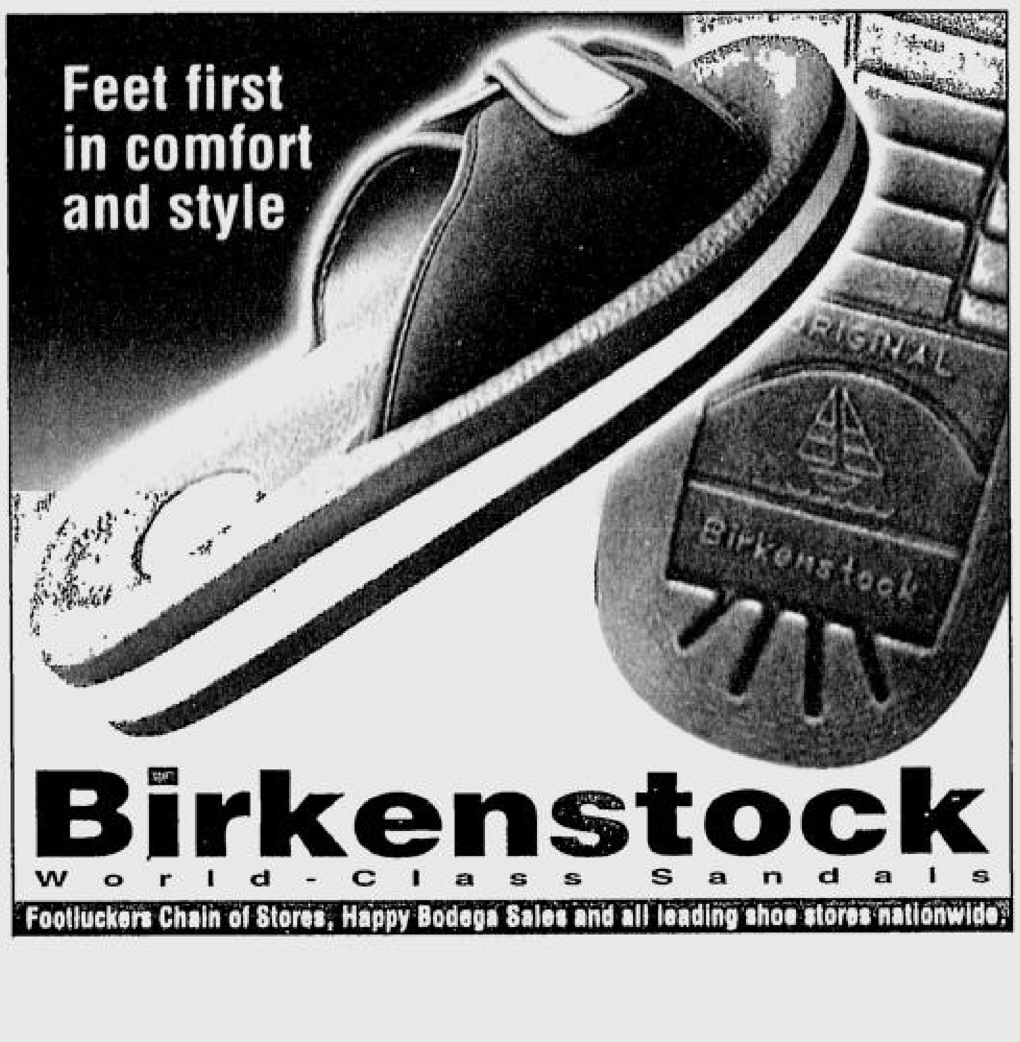

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SPORTS

Pinoy IMs tie for 9th

GRANDMASTER-candidate Mark Callano Paragua forced a draw with Sebastian Gachet of France in the final round Saturday night to squeeze himself into a big group sharing ninth place in the X Championnat de Nice at the Grand Aston Hotel in Nice, France.

Paragua, a 19-year-old former world under-14 champion, agreed to halve the point with Gachet in the 55th move to join fellow International Masters Ronald Dableo and Joseph Catiwalaan Sanchez and 11 others, at 5 points.

It was another respectable showing for the three Filipinos in the tournament which drew 164 entries.

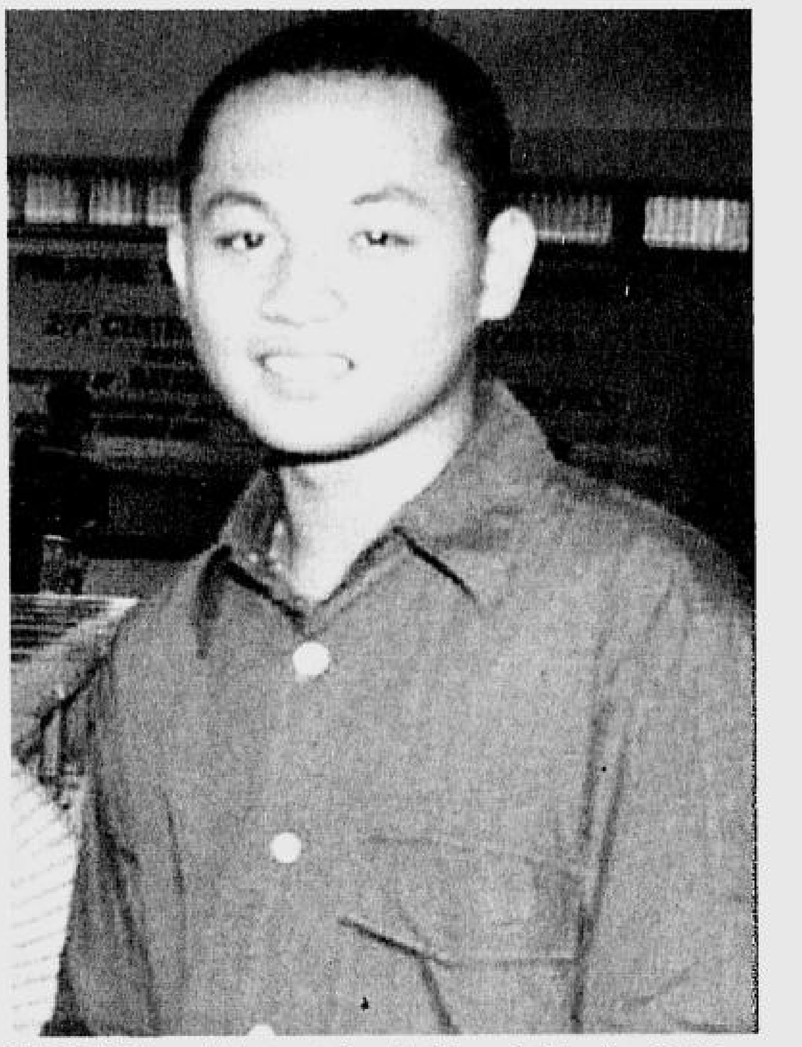
In their final round matches, the 32-year-old Sanchez whipped Andrea Murgia of Italy in 35 moves of the Sicilian Defense-Alapin variation while Dableo, the 24-year-old Asian 3.2a zonal champ, downed Julien Boursier of France in 45 moves of a Slav Defense.

Paragua finished the event undefeated, scoring three wins and four draws. Sanchez and Dableo each wound up with four wins, two draws and a loss for 5.0 points, the same card of GM Nikola Mitkov, IM Benjamin Bujisho, Fide Master Igor Solomunovic, Dennis Bucher, Fabricio Patuzzo, Patrick Van Hoolandt, Francisco Calvacanti, Glies Moncamp, Agustino Redoglia and Sebastian Gachet.

Croatian Grandmaster Davor Komljenovic (6.0 points) defeated Bulgarian GM Petar Genov to capture the title.

Tying for second to eighth places with 5.5 points were GMs Igor Miladinovic, Bela Badea, Nenad Sulava, Vladimir Georgiev, Milko Pochev and IMs Mark Leski and Milan Mrdja.

The European campaign of the Filipino triumvirate is bankrolled by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's foundation, Filway Marketing president Hector O. Tagaysay, the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, Dickies vice president for sales and marketing Dody T. Arcaya, Albert Cruz of Meycauayan, Philippine Air Force, Philippine Navy, former NCFP director Boogie Lim, Col. Rainier Espina of PNP and the Philippine Sports Commission.



PARAGUA draws his last match against France's Sebastian Gachet.

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Cagayan de Oro teeners make it to nat'l Milo run

CAGAYAN DE ORO—A pair of teenage runners will lead Southern Mindanao's qualifiers to the 27th Milo Marathon finals in Manila next month.

Juniel Languido, 19, was on the right route this time and ruled the men's 20K run while Aileen Tolentino, also 19, nipped elder sister Ellen to win the women's division of the regional qualifying races that ended at the Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex here.

A native of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, Languido pulled away from a four-man lead pack at the turnaround point and soloed it home in 1 hour, five minutes and 58 seconds.

"*Tuluy-tuloy lang ang ensayo ko mula nung* last year. *Gusto ko talagang makabawi ngayon* (I did not stop training since last year. I really wanted to redeem myself)," said Languido, who was disqualified last year after losing his way to the finish line.

Languido said he's buying a better pair of shoes from his P10,000 winner's purse in the hope of a top 10 finish in the national finals which will be held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific, Adidas, Powerbar, My Globe and the Department of Tourism.

Jaime Canillo, 24, from Iligan and brother of national athlete Crisanto, finished second in 1:07:17 while third placer was Bukidnon native Sawin-ay, who timed 1:08:43.

In the women's race, Aileen leaned on her younger legs to pull away from her 21-year-old sister in the last 400 meters.

Aileen, a second year student at the Lapasan National High School, clocked 1:31:42 to Ellen's 1:31:50 in pocketing the P10,000 prize. Aileen also won last year's Queen City 13.5K run in Cebu City.

Joining the Tolentino sisters in the national finals is Niecel Topia, 18, who clocked 1:35:01 for third.

"*Mas magaling na si* Aileen *sa akin ngayon* (Aileen is now the better runner)," said Ellen, 13th placer in the Milo Marathon finals last year. Ellen said she and Aileen hope to crash into the top 4 in Manila next month.

In the shorter 5K run, Jun Torned (15:19), Arnold Unabia (15:21) and Pedro Pujas (15:48) finished in that order while on the distaff side, 16-year-old Ella Cadion, just wearing slippers, finished first in 21:11, followed by Cecile Topia (21:23) and Julie Cadion (21:29).

The kiddie 3K run winners were Johnny Salon, 9:40, and Jocelyn Requerme, 10:16, in the 6-9 age group, and Joan Cien Moromoja, 9:39, and Jean Magatao, 8:43, in the 10-12 category.

With over 9,200 runners, Cagayan de Oro's turnout was the biggest so far in the history of the event although the Metro Manila race on Aug. 31 is expected to draw 14,000 runners.

The next regional race will be in Olongapo City this Sunday.

NAASCU caging set Aug. 25

GAMES Aug. 25 (Makati Coliseum)
9 a.m.—UM vs. University of Makati
10:30 a.m.— St. Clare vs. PLP

PBA commissioner Noli Eala has been invited to be the guest of honor and speaker during the opening ceremony of the third season of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (NAASCU) basketball tournament on Aug. 25 at the Makati Coliseum.

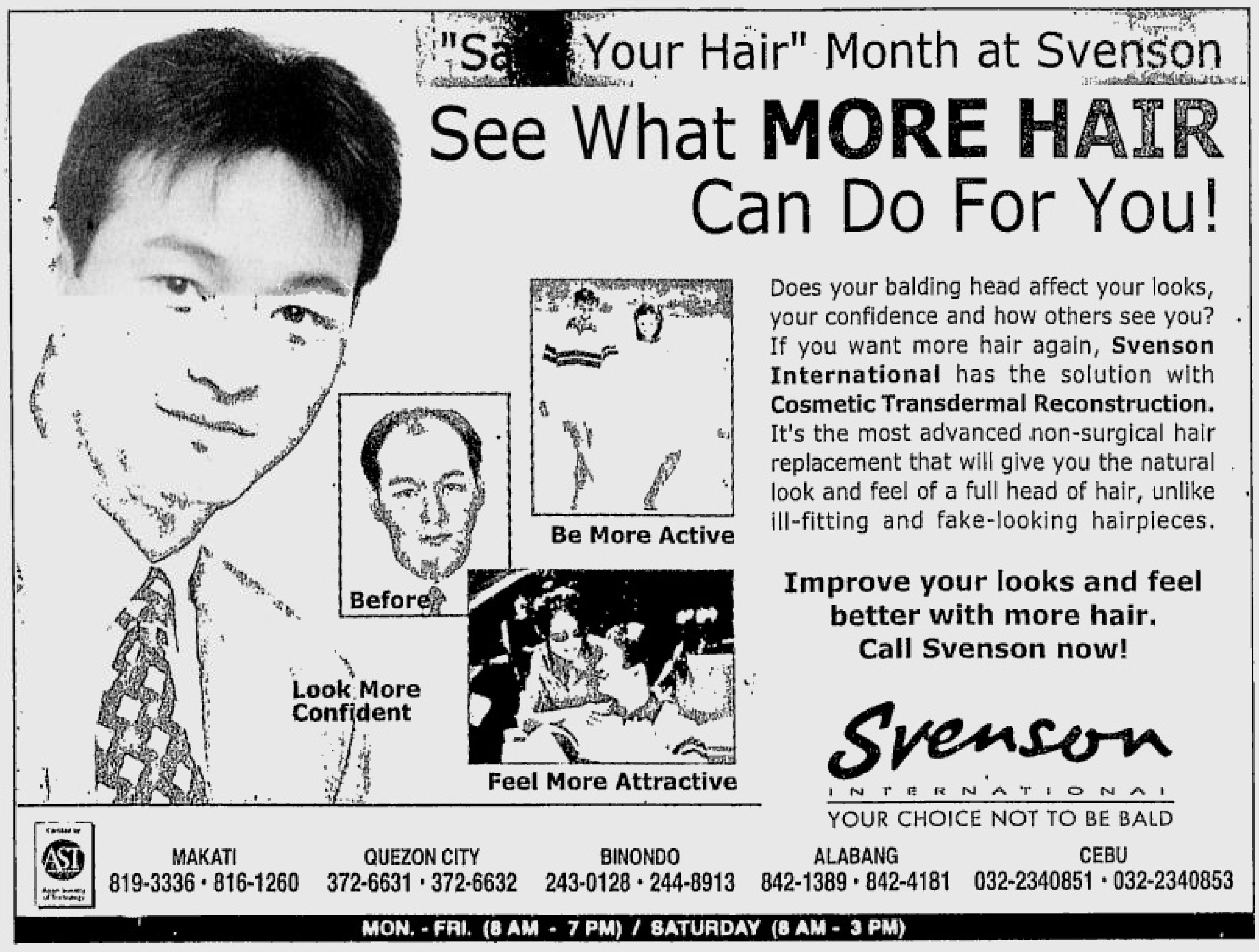
Eala is expected to make the ceremonial toss during the 8 a.m. opening ceremony, along with NAASCU president Dr. Ernesto Jay Adalem of host St. Clare College (Caloocan), NAASCU senior adviser Ernesto de los Santos of University of Manila and commissioner Bobby Royeca.

Quinito Henson of the Philippine Star will deliver the inspirational remarks.

Defending champion UM opens its title-retention bid against No. 2 seed University of Makati in the first of two matches beginning 9 a.m.

The other opening-day game will pit St. Clare against Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay.

New member Centro Escolar University, through Dean Loreto Panganiban, will provide the entertainment number during the opening rites.



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Thoroughbred racing gets extra day at SLLP

COMING on the heels of its recent blockbuster card at the San Lazaro Leisure Park (SLLP), the Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI) will host another six days of top-notch thoroughbred racing starting this Tuesday.

The six-day racing schedule of the country's premier race club includes four twilight cards of nine races each from Tuesday through Friday and two weekend programs of 13 races each on Saturday and Sunday.

The extra day of racing was allowed by the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) to compensate for the recent cancellation of races at the SLLP due to an accidental power interruption.

After the transfer of its core racing operation to the country's newest and most modern horse-racing complex in Carmona, Cavite in April, MJCI has steadily posted a marked increase in race betting sales. It generated more than P147 million during its race week from July 29 to Aug. 3.

Gross sales at the MJCI has been growing by an average of 3 to 4 percent over the past weeks, with the bulk of the sales being generated by the club's network of more than 260 Off-Track Betting (OTB) Stations in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

"We would like to thank the racing aficionados for their staunch support of our race programs and they can be assured that we would do our best to come up with more exciting races in our upcoming cards," noted MJCI president and chief executive Alfonso Reyno Jr.

The SLLP operates the only world-standard twin-oval rack in the country. It is twice as wide as the track at San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Both racetracks are being used by the club and have received positive feedback from the industry's direct players.

There are more than 600 horses at the club's stabling facility which is still being expanded to accommodate as many as 1,000 horses.

The San Lazaro Leisure Park is situated 36 km south of Manila. Motorists can reach it through the Carmona and Southwoods exits of the South Luzon Expressway.

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Gov't sees '03 budget gap at ₱178-₱185B

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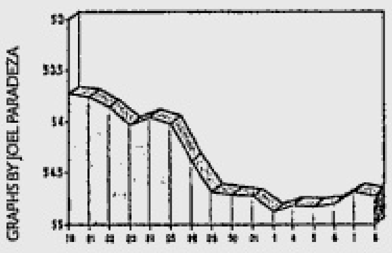

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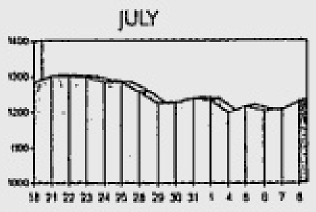
STOCK MARKET

Market consolidation expected

THE STOCK market is expected to consolidate this week after a see-saw ride following the failed July 27 military mutiny.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JULY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The Philippine composite index, the market's main indicator, on Friday closed 2.42 points lower than the previous week's level at 1,232.88 points after a late rally failed to wipe out early losses in the week.

"With the peak of the earnings season now past and trading volumes thinning, the market should be stuck in a tight range for the time being while waiting for its next big cue. In the near term, the market is likely to show some indecisiveness as the bullish sentiments were tainted by political uncertainties," AB Capital Securities analyst AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan noted.

MARKET/B6

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is expecting to contain this year's budget deficit within a range of P178 billion to P185 billion, or way below the ceiling of P202 billion, if improvements in revenue collections and disciplined spending experienced in the first seven months of the year are sustained in the last five months of the year.

Department of Finance sources said that based on available numbers as of July, the government would likely end the year with a budget gap that would be P17 billion to P24 billion lower than the target of P202 billion.

"The emerging budget deficit number assumes that the positive trend in the first seven months will be sustained," said a senior finance official.

In the first half of the year, the budget deficit stood at P79.6 billion against the six-month ceiling of P102.2 billion.

The positive trend brought down domestic interest rates as reflected by the decline in the 91-day treasury bill yields to 5.168 percent early last month. However, uncertainties caused by the failed July 27 military uprising prompted the market to try bidding the rates up.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government was expecting to contain for the fourth straight month the deficit within the P17.1-billion monthly target in July.

Also, the DOF source said that the government could also likely bring down the deficit-to-GDP (gross domestic products) ratio to 4.5 percent from last year's 5.3 percent.

The lower deficit projection was also hinged on how well the budget department would manage spending in the coming months.

Heads of both the DOF and the Department of Budget, however, earlier made pronouncements that "a calibrated government spending" would be pursued to settle state obligations that remained unpaid as of June.

Budget Undersecretary Laura Pascua said the government had exceeded its spending ceiling for July by P3 billion, although the first semester spending was P1.8 billion lower than the target.

The government spends between P55 billion and P60 billion monthly.

Pascua said that the budget department released an additional P6.5 billion last month to settle four months worth of payables to government contractors.

BSP to tap $500M in loans next month

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would borrow as much as $500 million in loans next month to boost the country's external reserves in view of the uncertainty in the inflow of foreign direct investments.

The central bank said it was also open to the possibility of raising in advance the funds needed to settle maturing obligations in 2004.

"Our decision will depend on the pricing of the offers we will get," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The amount to be tapped next month may exceed $500 million if the BSP will push through with the plan to start raising funds for the settlement of debts maturing next year.

The BSP has a $200-million loan falling due next month. It has so far raised $85 million for the funding of this obligation. Buenaventura said the central bank might have to use portion of the gross international reserves if it would not be able to find financing for the balance of the maturing loan.

He said the central bank would start soliciting offers for three-to-five-year loans next month.

"We have to borrow because the uncertain inflow of investments may hit our BOP (balance of payments) and GIR," said the BSP chief.

The central bank vowed to keep the country's dollar reserves at P14 billion-P15 billion and the BOP deficit at not more than $1.13 billion.

The GIR level stood at $16.139 billion as of July. The BOP deficit was placed at more than $600 million in June.

In coming up with the GIR and BOP targets, the BSP had assumed a net inflow of $500 million from direct investments. But as of April, foreign investments inflow remained negligible.

"We have to compensate for the shortfall in the FDI inflow," said Buenaventura.

He said the BSP might also consider borrowing from the banks' foreign currency deposit units. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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When we played our trade

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

RUMORS persist that the same bank accounts which supplied the legendary "Jose Velarde" account, also donated to the up-and-coming Joe "V" account.

Still, those are just rumors. Nobody in his or her right mind in this cute administration of Gloriaetta should feel obliged to do anything based on rumors.

Besides, that certain Joe "V"—whoever he, she, it or they may be—lodged the funds with a subsidiary of one of the biggest local banks.

In our country, despite that charade of an anti-money laundering law, it's still not that easy to look into bank accounts, no matter how suspicious they are.

But don't tell me that's why some groups worked hard for a watered-down, toothless version of the law! This one was to protect the depositor's rights.

***

TO A curious anti-money laundering council, nevertheless, a good question is, where did all that money come from, in the first place.

Don't tell me the account owner or owners, as the case may be, made a killing in trading. I have never heard of a certain Joe "V" in big-time retail or importation.

By the way, something in the letters "J" and "V" makes them the favorites to use in fictitious names for huge bank accounts. Maybe they are lucky letters.

Anyway, if the Joe "V" account was the hard-earned fruit of graft and corruption, which the persistent rumors claim they were, we are just wasting our time.

We are lucky that the fruit of graft and corruption, even if it is deposited with local banks, technically, is not covered by the anti-money laundering law. Oops!

***

DON'T look now, but we have another mini-Napocor waiting to explode. And that is, the state-owned corporation National Food Authority, or the NFA.

In only a few months, the NFA collected new debts of roughly P4 billion. Surprise—the new debts are all the dangerous type short-term commercial loans.

In October last year, the NFA had outstanding debts of P25 billion. Today, they have grown to about P29 billion—and still counting.

By the end of this year, if things do not miscarry, with the grace of this cute administration, the NFA can still improve its debts to P32 billion.

In the lingo of the day, in other words, the NFA is a time bomb waiting to be planted somewhere at the Glorietta mall.

***

NOW, the NFA incurred the new debts, mainly because this cute administration wanted to raise more taxes. The NFA had to pay taxes and duties for its rice importation

That is a first in the world history of governments which subsidize consumers as a political tool. For this is the main and only function of the NFA—as a political tool.

The NFA must import rice only to sell it at prices which are much lower than those in the market, and sell it to consumers who are rich and poor alike. Nice!

Thus, the NFA subsidizes the rice it sells to everybody, even those living in Forbes Park. It is the only trading interest which tries its best to buy high and sell low.

That is the way the NFA plays the trading game. Bet on it, that's a surefire way to lose a lot of money. Practically, the NFA is bankrupt. It no longer has any capital.

Short of cash to cover for the trading loss and, also, to pay for the taxes and duties on importation, the NFA was forced to borrow heavily. How so like the government!

* * *

THAT cannot go on forever. In fact, the day of reckoning for the NFA will come much sooner than anybody in the government cares to admit, particularly the lawmakers.

You see, the brilliant and young NFA administrator, Arthur Yap, is trying to push for a restructuring of the firm, mainly by changing its charter in Congress.

Three bills, to that effect, are still with the technical committee in the House of Representatives. I don't think the final

BREAKTIME/ B5

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1961
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In the late 50's, business visionary Eugenio "Geny" Lopez Jr. already saw the potential of television to be "bridges on the air," a powerful instrument that can reach and link Filipinos throughout the archipelago. This dream was first realized on 14 June 1961, with the initial telecast of DYCB-TV Channel 3 Cebu.

ABS-CBN's Bacolod TV station was put up the following year. Its first TV relay station began operations in Baguio in 1967, allowing Manila programs to be viewed simultaneously in Northern Luzon. ABS-CBN Davao began serving TV viewers from Mindanao in 1970.

ABS-CBN's long string of pioneering technological innovations and continued expansion aims to bring its brand of television to the Filipino wherever he may be.

More than three decades later, ABS-CBN's regional network has grown to a family of 19 TV stations nationwide, reaching more than 97% of the country's TV households. Beyond that, its international operations now allows ABS-CBN programs to be enjoyed by Filipinos in more than 2/3 of the globe. Indeed, Geny's "bridges on the air" stretched as far as his dreams could travel.

50 YEARS ABS-CBN TELEVISION SINCE 1953
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Neri here nor there

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ALL these talks about leaving the Department of Finance would have not spawned and branched out into conspiracy theories had not Jose Isidro Camacho himself conveyed the departure idea to Malacañang.

It is not clear why Camacho entertained such thoughts at this late in the GMA term, but it nevertheless was serious enough for other power brokers to start putting in their respective nominees.

According to the pro-GMA grapevine, the President herself chose Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri from among the nominees and that, consequently, House Speaker Jose de Venecia alerted the former congressional budget planning chief to ready himself for the takeover of the finance portfolio.

From several accounts, Neri was supposed to move in by the end of this month, but the President gave Camacho leeway to mull over whether he wanted to stay on or not.

In any case, Camacho met with his undersecretaries on Tuesday, according to the grapevine, to discuss his possible departure, before he started repeating his "I serve at the pleasure of the President" line to the pesky press until Friday.

(Correction: Finance Undersecretary Grace Pulido-Tan came from the Sycip, Salazar, Hernandez law firm, not the Sycip, Gorres and Velayo accounting firm, as was reported here Friday.)

French roll

THE FRENCH principals of Publicis-AMA advertising agency have lately been showing who the real boss is in the supposedly Filipino-majority agency, with the fate of about 20 long-time employees and officers, including chair/president Joselito de Joya, now under a cloud of doubt.

AMA, whose bread-and-butter account was and continues to be Nestlé, merged with Publicis in 1999 to comply with the so-called global realignment scheme to place the disparate Nestlé accounts worldwide under one or a select number of multinational ad agencies.

Despite bringing in the Nestlé account into the merger—at P1.2 billion, Nestlé represents about 60 percent of the 2002 billings of Publicis-AMA—AMA agreed to settle for 34 percent of the joint venture, with the majority stake being taken up by the local Publicis unit under Antonio Mercado.

But after Mercado's death in 2000, AMA woke up to find that the French agency has effective majority control of the venture.

Although the French executives are based in Singapore and have been operating the local joint venture by remote control, lately the Singapore office has been going over the shoulders of De Joya and company, even bringing in local lawyers, according to the grapevine, to realign Publicis-AMA's personnel contingent.

Already, one of the first casualties is Gil Chua, who was forced out as executive vice president in early June. Chua, however, remains the president and CEO of DDB Philippines, a sister ad agency of AMA.

COCKTALES/ B6

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Reversing the slide: Export 'coopetition'

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

LAST week brought some good economic news that deserved more fanfare than they actually received in the midst of the continuing preoccupation with the failed Makati mutiny. First, inflation for July had slowed down from the previous month, defying common expectations that price increases would begin to speed up. Second, and to me more significant, our country's merchandise exports posted positive growth, reversing consecutive declines in previous months. The National Statistics Office (NSO) reported that export earnings for June 2003 were up 4.2 percent to $3.060 billion from last year's $2.936 billion.

The good news goes beyond the aggregate numbers. More significant was the fact that our exports grew overall, even though exports of electronics products had dropped by 5.2 percent. With electronics accounting for over 63 percent of export revenues, the overall rise despite a drop in this dominant component means that we managed to achieve enough growth in our other export products to more than offset the drop in electronics exports. In other words, we had somewhat reduced our overdependence on electronics exports, and moved in the direction of broadening the base of our export growth. The export sectors that posted such growth included garments, refined petroleum products, ignition wiring sets, woodcrafts and furniture, coconut oil, bananas, metal components and tuna.

Even in the 1990s, I had already been sounding the alarm in the Ramos Cabinet over the fact that in our exports, we were putting too many eggs in one basket, i.e. that electronics exports accounted for more than half of our export earnings. I recall that back then, the proportion was around 55 percent. Now at 63 percent, it is clear that rather than reduce the dominance of electronics, we actually allowed it to grow further. What is bad about this is that we became too vulnerable to a slowdown in just one export commodity. And sure enough, as the technology sector suffered a dramatic downturn in the US and elsewhere in recent years, so did our export performance plummet from the double-digit growth we had enjoyed through most of the 1990s.

The export data released last week also showed that our exports to the US declined by 6.1 percent, although it remained our biggest export market, accounting for 23.1 percent of the total. On the other hand, our exports to Japan, Hong Kong, Europe and our neighboring countries grew quite robustly, by up to 59.2 percent for Hong Kong, and 45.8 percent for the Netherlands. Again, there is a positive element to this development, as it means that our traditional overdependence on the US as a market for our export products had diminished somewhat.

Herein lies another persistent weakness in our export performance. Among our neighbors, we have been the most highly dependent on the US for our international trade (i.e. exports and imports). This has also made us the most vulnerable to a US economic slowdown. On the other hand, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia appear to have been more successful in penetrating the Central and Eastern European export markets than we have been. More ironic is the fact that these neighbors of ours have also been more successful in penetrating the Latin American markets, when one would have thought that our common Hispanic colonial history with these countries gives us a built-in advantage. It is an advantage that we have failed to exploit, in our preoccupation with selling to the Americans and the Japanese.

Fortunately, the situation may be changing. In a slow but steady process, our trade with our more immediate neighbors has been gaining in importance, especially in light of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta). And beyond Afta, our trade with China had recently turned in our favor, as their appetite for our fruits and raw materials like copper appears to be growing in tandem with their dynamic economic growth. Thus, rather than feel threatened by China's economic emergence, we ought to build on the fact that we are one of those countries actually benefiting from China's entry into the world trading arena, an observation recently made by the Economist magazine.

But there is still much more we could do. Our export figures continue to pale in comparison with those of our immediate neighbors. One reason for this is our lack of a strong small and medium enterprise (SME) export sector. In particular, I have heard it said that one weakness of our SMEs is their tendency for individualism. In contrast, SME exporters in Thailand and Indonesia are very well organized and, through close cooperation, are able to meet the volume requirements of their buyers in large countries. This inability to sustain large volumes has proven to be the downfall of many upstart Filipino SMEs after making a few initial sales to buyers abroad.

The *kanya-kanya* mentality that prevents our SMEs from gaining strength in numbers must give way to a new business ethic of "coopetition," as coined by one author—that is, competition tempered with cooperation. It is this same business ethic that we see many Filipino-Chinese shops employ so successfully. How many times have you had the experience of asking for something in a Filipino-Chinese store, be it a Banawe auto accessory shop or a Binondo hardware store, and rather than be turned away because the item is out of stock, the shopkeeper lifts the phone and sources the item from a neighboring competitor? This way, he wins twice: he gains a customer while indirectly providing a friendly competitor some business. Only through such "coopetition" can our SMEs thrive in a globalized trading environment and further boost our export growth.

We have a long way to go to be in the same export league as our neighbors. Meanwhile, we are lucky that based on the June data at least, we seem to have reversed the slide in our export performance.

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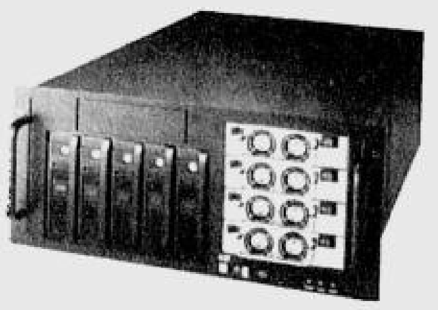

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L300 FB BARE	545,000	70,000	21,872	15,647	11,133
L300 FB SINGLE AIRCON	570,000	78,000	22,876	16,304	11,643
L300 FB DUAL AIRCON	585,000	77,000*	23,478	16,785	11,950
L300 AF	494,000	73,800	19,826	14,182	10,091
L300 WT	502,000	75,400	20,147	14,412	10,254
L300 PET	515,000	78,000	20,868	14,785	10,520

Low Monthly Plans / 0% Interest Plans

50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
272,500	22,708	15,139	12,237	8,754	7,063	6,228
285,000	23,750	15,833	12,626	9,031	7,267	6,426
292,500	24,375	16,250	12,188	9,130	7,367	6,496**
247,000	20,583	13,722	11,197	8,010	6,463	5,609
251,000	20,917	13,944	11,307	8,153	6,579	5,801
257,500	21,458	14,306	11,723	8,386	6,787	5,967

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All Plans Subject to Bank Approval • 0% Interest Plans are in Bold Figures
**20% D/P for L300FB Dual Aircon • **50% D/P - 60 months for L300FB Dual Aircon*
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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

DECLINING DEMAND, NEW SPECIFICATIONS

'Big 3' oil refiners post decline in capacity use

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE UTILIZATION of the country's oil refineries have been declining in the past five years due to new fuel specifications mandated by the Clean Air Act as well as the shrinking domestic demand, oil executives said.

Records from the Department of Energy showed that of the country's total refining capacity of 419,000 barrels per stream day (bpsd), the three local refiners—Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc.—were processing about 383,000 bpsd in 1997 or 91.5 percent of aggregate capacity.

Petron's refinery in Bataan has an installed capacity of 180,000 bpsd while Shell's and Caltex's refineries in Batangas have 165,000 bpsd and 84,000 bpsd, respectively.

In 1998, when the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation law was passed, total capacity utilization went down to 81 percent or about 339,000 bspd.

This slid further to 76.7 percent (about 321,000 bpsd) in 1999, 72.5 percent (303,000 bpsd) in 2000 and 70.7 percent (296,000 bpsd) in 2001.

The use of refineries hit a low of 61.5 percent or about 257,000 bpsd in 20002.

In the wake of a government-ordered build up of inventories during the United States-led war on Iraq early this year, the three refineries run at a total of 67.5 percent of capacity (282,000 bpsd) in the first quarter of 2003.

Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar said the company's was processing between 120,000 and 130,000 bspd or 66-72 percent of capacity.

"We have been actively importing products whenever conditions are favorable, especially with the new specifications for gasoline and diesel," Ruivivar said.

The Clean Air Act mandates lower levels of the harmful aromatics and benzene content for gasoline as well as of sulfur for diesel.

The new specifications for gasoline took effect early this year while those for diesel will take effect at the start of 2004.

Local oil companies have said they were resorting to the importation of either the additives that they use with locally refined products and/or finished products themselves.

Ruivivar said Petron had always wanted to maximize its refining capacity, but that it also had to consider competitive pressures.

Breaktime

From page B2

bill will materialize in this Congress.

The bills propose a similar bailout scheme as those done for the defunct Central Bank, and other government banks such as the PNB and the DBP.

But time is running out for the NFA. Today, it just rolls over its debts. Interest only piles up. It borrows to pay for the interest. It's nothing but a pyramiding scheme.

* * *

MY info is, no less than Gloriaetta herself is worried about the NFA. She is doing some hands-on micro management for the NFA.

For instance, in a meeting of the NEDA council which she chairs, Gloriaetta decided to certify the new, restructured NFA charter as an urgent administration bill.

But the technical committee of the House must still finish their work. Today, it is already on the fourth month. Oops, elections are also just around the corner.

More likely, the NFA will have to incur more debts. The restructuring bill will not pass this Congress. Lawmakers are already running a busy schedule.

Look, they must conduct hearings on the latest attempted coup, plus whether or not some more professional basketball players can still play in the PBA. Urgent things!

***

IT'S hard to picture Tessie Sy Coson, who is said to be the brains behind the success of Henry Sy's flagship business, the SM department store, as a mere cashier.

But that's how Tessie started. Still in school at that time, Tessie worked as a cashier in a small Shoemart store, selling only shoes, at the Makati Commercial Center.

The first SM store which she managed was the old one on Carriedo Street in Manila, the very same commercial area which Mayor Lito Atienza is trying to revive today.

Anyway, when Tantang decided to open his first big department store, the one at the Ayala Center near the site of the coup, he asked her if she could fill it up with goods.

Really? Was there ever a time when SM itself had problems sourcing its merchandise? SM? Where people from the province come for coup, *este*, excursion?

* * *

WELL, at that time, about 30 years ago, sourcing the goods was hard for Tessie because she could not find that many local manufacturers.

The existing manufacturers then would not even take a second look at her proposals. Thus she practically had to develop her own suppliers from scratch.

Today, several stores and malls later, Tessie is still having a problem sourcing goods for her stores. She has to import a lot of them.

You see, the very same suppliers which she helped to develop, mostly lost to imported goods. A lot of them closed down.

Sadly for SM, a lot of its suppliers were all beaten by the trade liberalization program of the government. No wonder, now you find imported goods even in SM.

* * *

STILL, trade lib or no trade lib, SM has no choice but to expand. SM is only one of a few businesses expanding today. It has something to do with the nature of the trade business.

At the rate SM malls are sprouting all over the country, you'd think that Tatang is afraid that he would run out of space.

But here is the thing: it's the math of trading. The SM group has to keep on putting up malls just to achieve spurts of growth. Very small!

If you have one store, for instance, and then you open one more, immediately you hit a 100-percent growth.

If you have a hundred stores like SM will eventually have, adding one store only means a 1-percent growth. It's the nature of the store business. Expand or stagnate!

And all along, everybody thought that the SM group could not wait to expand because of...well, business confidence.

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of Philippine Airlines, Inc. will be held on 28 August 2003 at the PAL Learning Center, 540 Padre Faura, corner M. Adriatico Streets, Ermita, Manila at 10:00 o' clock in the morning.

For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present some form of identification, such as passport, driver's license, or company ID.

Office of the Corporate Secretary

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Ayala to list MWC shares by '05

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE AYALA group is exploring the possibility of listing its profitable water distribution unit Manila Water Co., which serves the East zone of Metro Manila, by 2005 given the unit's strong earnings performance since last year.

Ayala Corp. managing director for corporate strategy Rufino Luis Manotok added that the listing of the Ayala-controlled water firm was one of the conditions in the concession agreement with the government.

Manotok said that Manila Water should "ideally" undertake the initial public offering by 2005.

"We're looking at the right timing. It depends on market conditions," he said.

He declined to disclose how much of Manila Water's shares would be offered to the public, but said that it would be at the "optimum" level as provided in the rules of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Manila Water is a joint venture between Ayala Corp., the flagship holding company of the Ayala family, United Utilities PLC, Mitsubishi Corp., BPI Capital Corp., Ben MWSS Holdings Ltd. and MWC Holdings Inc.

In 1997, in what was described as the world's largest water utility privatization project, the state-run Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System turned over its operation and development of the water distribution network of the east zone of Metro Manila to Manila Water and the west zone to Maynilad Water Services through a 25-year lease contract.

Manila Water reported a first-half profit this year of P620 million, double last year's comparative level.

In 2002, its fifth year of operations, Manila Water reported a profit of P553 million and increased its population served to over four million from one million when it first took over the east zone.

The east zone is made up of the cities of Marikina, Pasig, Mandaluyong and Makati, most of Quezon City and a small portion of the city of Manila, San Juan, Taguig and Pateros as well as the following cities and municipalities of Rizal: Angono, Antipolo, Baras, Jala-Jala, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Morong Pililia, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Tanay, Taytay and Teresa.

Last year, the government approved an increase in Manila Water's tariff rate from P9.97 to P17 per cubic meter. The rate increase, however, would be implemented in stages over the next three years to ease the impact of the tariff hike on consumers.

GGA Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of August 11, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,200,000	1,350,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	700,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	220,000
Canlubang	450,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	150,000	170,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	165,000	200,000
Club Filipino	Please Call	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	180,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	210,000	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	550,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	110,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	210,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	50,000	-
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	230,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	Please Call
Sta. Elena "B"	1,400,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	780,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	Please Call	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	7,100,000

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East West to open 14 branches

THE GOTIANUN group's East West Banking Corp. plans to soon open 14 out of the 30 branches it acquired when it purchased and later merged with Ecology Savings Bank.

The Securities and Exchange Commission recently approved the merger between East West Bank and Ecology Bank.

East West Bank president Elrey Ramos said East West Bank, the surviving entity, would allocate between P120 million and P130 million in capital expenditure to set up the 30 branches nationwide.

He added that the acquisition of Ecology Bank now allowed East West to formally launch five more banking centers in the third quarter of this year, with three to be located in Metro Manila, Pampanga and Cebu.

East West currently has 47 personalized banking centers with plans to expand the network to 77 by the end of next year.

"We hope that beyond that, we would be able to obtain more branch licenses and bring up the level of our branches from 77 to around 100 by end of 2005 and 2006 or within five years," Ramos said.

He explained that East West was seeking to establish similar merging relationships with other banks to serve its growing number of customers. Now on its 9th year of operations, the bank currently has over P16 billion in total resources.

East West Bank signed a memorandum of agreement in September last year to acquire Ecology Savings Bank from Equitable PCI Bank. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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Partial List 08/08/2003

CLUBS	SELLING AT	CLUBS	SELLING AT	CLUBS	BUYING AT
ALABANG "A"	1.4M	PUNTA FUEGO	500K	BAGUIO CC	600K
BAGUIO CC	650K	CC SPORTS "A"	200K	CANLUBANG	450K
CAPITOL HILLS	165K	RIVIERA "A"	165K	CC @ TAG	350K
CELEB (INDIV)	175K	S'WOODS "A"	495K	FOREST HILLS "A"	150K
CLUB FILIPINO	150K	S'WOODS "B"	550K	MKTI SPORTS "A"	Call now
EAGLERIDGE "A"	270K	STA. ELENA "A"	1.4M	MLA POLO	2.1M
FOREST HILLS "A"	200K	SUBIC BAY YACHT	Call now	PUNTA FUEGO	Call now
MLA POLO	2.15M	TAG MIDLANDS	750K	S'WOODS "A"	450K
ORCHARD "C"	Call now	VALLEY GOLF	300K	WACK WACK	Call now

PARTIAL AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
CANLUBANG	50,000	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	35,000
MIMOSA GOLF & CC	10,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
RIVIERA GCC	10,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A	1,300,000	Pls. Call
Baguio Country Club	750,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	170,000	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills	-	110,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B"	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	200,000	150,000
Club Filipino	180,000	-
Eagleridge A/B"/C"	260,000/450,000"	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana DIC"/A"	70,000/140,000"/230,000"	-
Forest Hills A/B"/C"	220,000/220,000"/250,000"	190,000"
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,700,000/12,000,000*	10,000,000/11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,100,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	450,000/550,000*	-
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	350,000*	100,000
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	280,000	-
Phil. Columbian	70,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	-	165,000
Riviera Golf A/B"/C"	165,000"/380,000"	100,000
Rockwell Leisure Club	390,000	-
Sherwoods A/B"/C"	70,000/Pls. Call"	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,650,000*	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	800,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	650,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	-
Valle Verde (Indv.)	160,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	-	Pls. Call

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INTEREST RATES

August 8, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 8-Aug-03	MART1 7-Aug-03
1 Month	6.1679	6.1554
3 Months	6.0286	6.005
6 Months	6.9429	6.9967
1 Year	8	7.87
2 Years	9.3393	9.3617
3 Years	9.9339	9.9214
4 Years	10.3479	10.3946
5 Years	10.6171	10.65
7 Years	11.2196	11.2263
10 Years	11.7607	11.82
20 Years	12.0429	12.0367
25 Years	12.4429	12.4133

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Cocktales

From page B3

AMA has served Nestlé for 44 years, and many of the personnel on the alleged hit list are Nestlé veterans. Incidentally, De Joya, an Atenean, would have been the fourth Apo Hiking Society band member had it not been for his tough father, the late Antonio R. de Joya, who steered him into a corporate career.

Coffee with a view

THE UCC Coffee House in The Fort has been attracting steady droves of A-list customers, mainly by word of mouth, with its front-seat view of the Manila Golf Club grounds.

For a price of coffee, one who gets a terrace seat can easily be forgiven for dreaming he owns the Manila Golf Club or he is one of the few lucky residents of the Pacific Plaza Towers.

Owned by the Ques of the Mercury Drug chain, the coffee house sits on a cul-de-sac between Pacific Plaza Towers and the new McDonald's restaurant.

There is an expansive, free parking lot, a rare commodity in Metro Manila these days, and trees and greenery galore, an even rarer commodity.

Heard through the grapevine

MODEL Jane Yu is suing the famed Dr. Ken Obagi in New York over a botched facial operation she recently underwent in the United States.

Obagi's disciples here include Dr. Vicky Bello and shipping heiress Doris Ho.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 8, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18.25	17.75	18.25	179,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	48	46	48	1,334,700
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	100
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	19	19	19	19	200
Citystate Savings Bank	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	34	34	620,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29.5	30	188,300
Prudential Bank	300	302.5	300	300	171,640
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.75	53,200
Security Bank Corp.	18	18	18	18	85,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	128,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1575	1590	1575	1590	1,230
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	106,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1130	1145	1130	1145	3,920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	20	20	18,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	1,220,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630	645	630	645	40,840
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	6,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.0525	0.046	0.0525	127,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.15	11,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	3,150,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	500	515	497.5	510	179,820
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	10,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	11.25	12	11.25	12	951,100
Manila Electric Co. B	17.25	18.25	17.25	18.25	2,746,300
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	1.98	2.02	3,428,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	103,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.8	13,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	368,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	70,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	15,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	29	28.5	29	27,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	12,200
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	220,000
San Miguel Corp. A	51.5	52	51.5	52	60,100
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	61	62	136,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	730,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.39	160,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	200,000
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.55	4.4	4.55	4,266,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	228,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.037	0.039	0.037	0.039	4,600,000
APC Group Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	21,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.76	1.64	1.74	322,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	21,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.67	0.62	0.64	26,670,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,900,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.19	570,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.1	0.115	0.1	0.105	1,910,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	2,250,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.043	0.0575	0.043	0.05	18,300,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	15.5	16	15.5	16	903,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	40,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	1,250,000
Ionics Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.48	160,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	17,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	190,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.15	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	3,550,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	710,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.28	23,830,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	900,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	1,640,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.12	22,450,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.54	190,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	1,480,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.9	1	0.9	1	240,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.1	0.09	0.1	8,300,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	80,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.56	2,970,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.25	20.25	20	20	46,200
ATR Fin. Corp. - Warrants	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	60	460	460	. 460	60
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	3,287,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,110,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.23	0.21	0.21	7,470,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	980,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.96	1	0.96	0.98	3,160,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.24	0.215	0.215	7,170,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.165	0.175	0.16	0.175	820,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	2,196,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	10,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.185	1,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.2	620,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	45,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	310,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	40,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.015	0.013	0.015	16,200,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	13,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	20,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	42,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	2,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,874,990	157,402,815.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	319,947,820	287,210,055.00
PRO	26,194,000	40,977,540.00
Mining	58,220,000	652,450.00
OIL	95,200,000	912,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	502,436,810	487,155,460.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	454.19	UP 13.73
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,748.49	UP 33.69
PRO	551.69	UP 4.91
Mining	1,169.82	DOWN 24.08
OIL	1.41	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	768.71	UP 6.43
Composite	1,232.88	UP 25.63

NO. OF ADVANCES: 55; NO. OF DECLINES: 13; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 104; NO. OF TRADES: 2,626

Market consolidation . . .

From page B1

Vistan said recent economic data were encouraging, citing the recovery in merchandise exports for June as well as the lower inflation posted in July. He, however, cautioned that before investors jump more forcefully into equities, there should be more solid evidence that the economy was growing at a faster pace.

"As long as this (good economic news) continues and that political woes are resolved, chances are that the pullback we've been experiencing will be somewhat brief, which may mean further equity gains in the latter half of the year," Vistan said.

BPI Securities also echoed Vistan's sentiments. "Barring any new negative developments, we believe that the market should consolidate within the current trading range. The overhang of continuing security and political risk concerns, however, will limit the market's upside for now. On the other hand, improving buying sentiment should contain the market's downside at 1,200," it said. *Elena R. Torrijos*

CURRENCIES

August 8, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.879353	1.000000	54.745000
Japan	Yen	0.007391	0.008405	0.460100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.423057	1.618300	88.593800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112748	0.128217	7.019200
Switzerland	Franc	0.651179	0.740521	40.539800
Canada	Dollar	0.631719	0.718391	39.328300
Singapore	Dollar	0.500770	0.569476	31.176000
Australia	Dollar	0.572644	0.651211	35.650500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.332625	2.652661	145.219900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234494	0.266667	14.598700
Brunei	Dollar	0.499348	0.567859	31.087400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000117	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021007	0.023889	1.307800
UAE	Dirham	0.239423	0.272272	14.905500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.137200	62.256000
Argentina	Peso	0.301148	0.342466	18.748300
Brazil	Real	0.293603	0.334113	18.291000
Denmark	Kroner	0.134509	0.152964	8.374000
India	Rupee	0.019166	0.021796	1.193200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231440	0.263193	14.408500
Mexico	New Peso	0.082398	0.093703	5.129800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.511074	0.581193	31.817400
Norway	Kroner	0.122561	0.139365	7.629500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015280	0.017376	0.951200
South Africa	Rand	0.121248	0.137883	7.548400
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.000844	0.046200
Sweden	Kroner	0.108535	0.123426	6.757000
Syria	Pound	0.020937	0.023810	1.303500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025600	0.029112	1.593700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000661	0.000627	0.034300

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OFFICES	DIRECT LINE	FAX	OFFICES	DIRECT LINE	FAX
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT	688-7401	637-8803	LISTINGS & DISCLOSURE GROUP	688-7508	634-2051
OFFICE OF THE SVP	688-7406	634-5113	MEMBERSHIP DEPT.	688-7463	636-0806
ADMINISTRATION DEPT.	688-7445	634-5026	PUBLIC INFO & ASST. CENTER	688-7601	637-8818
AUTOMATED TRADING GROUP	688-7480	634-5031	RESEARCH & INT'L AFFAIRS DEPT.	688-7520	634-5920
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPT.	688-7590	634-6695	TRADING & SETTLEMENT DEPT.	819-4446	848-6612
COMPLIANCE & SURVEILLANCE	688-7541	637-8811	TRAINING INSTITUTE DEPT.	688-7536	634-5920
CORP. COMMUNICATIONS DEPT.	688-7581	634-5113	PSE BROKERS LOUNGE (TEKTITE)	688-7665	
FINANCE & INVESTMENTS GROUP	688-7561	637-8821	PSE BROKERS LOUNGE (PLAZA)	819-4480	
GENERAL COUNSEL	688-7413	634-5113			
HUMAN RESOURCES MGMT. GROUP	688-7424	634-5113	SECURITIES CLEARING CORP.	819-4469	848-6626

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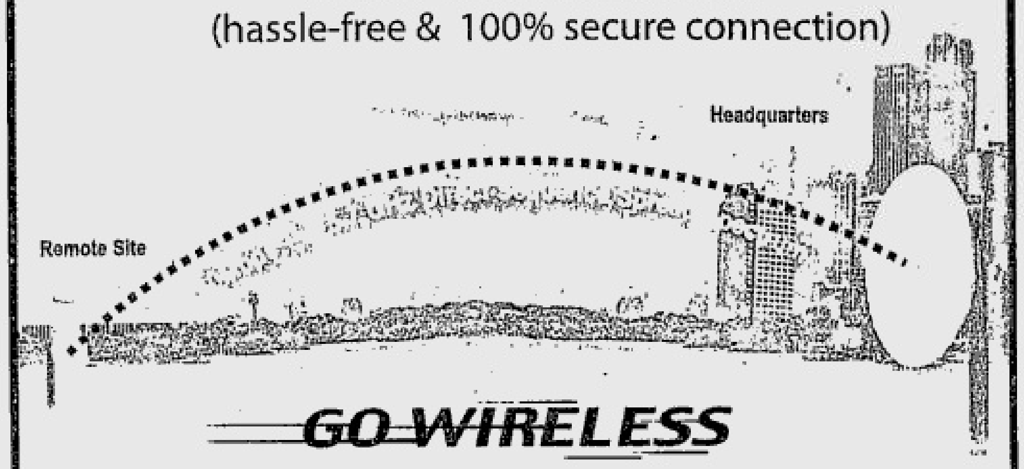

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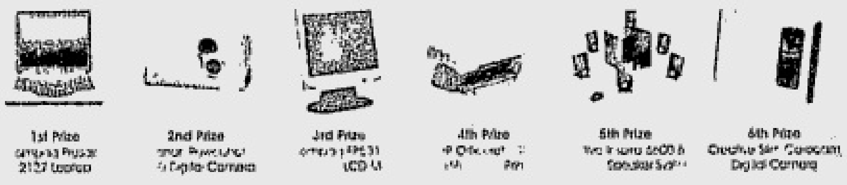

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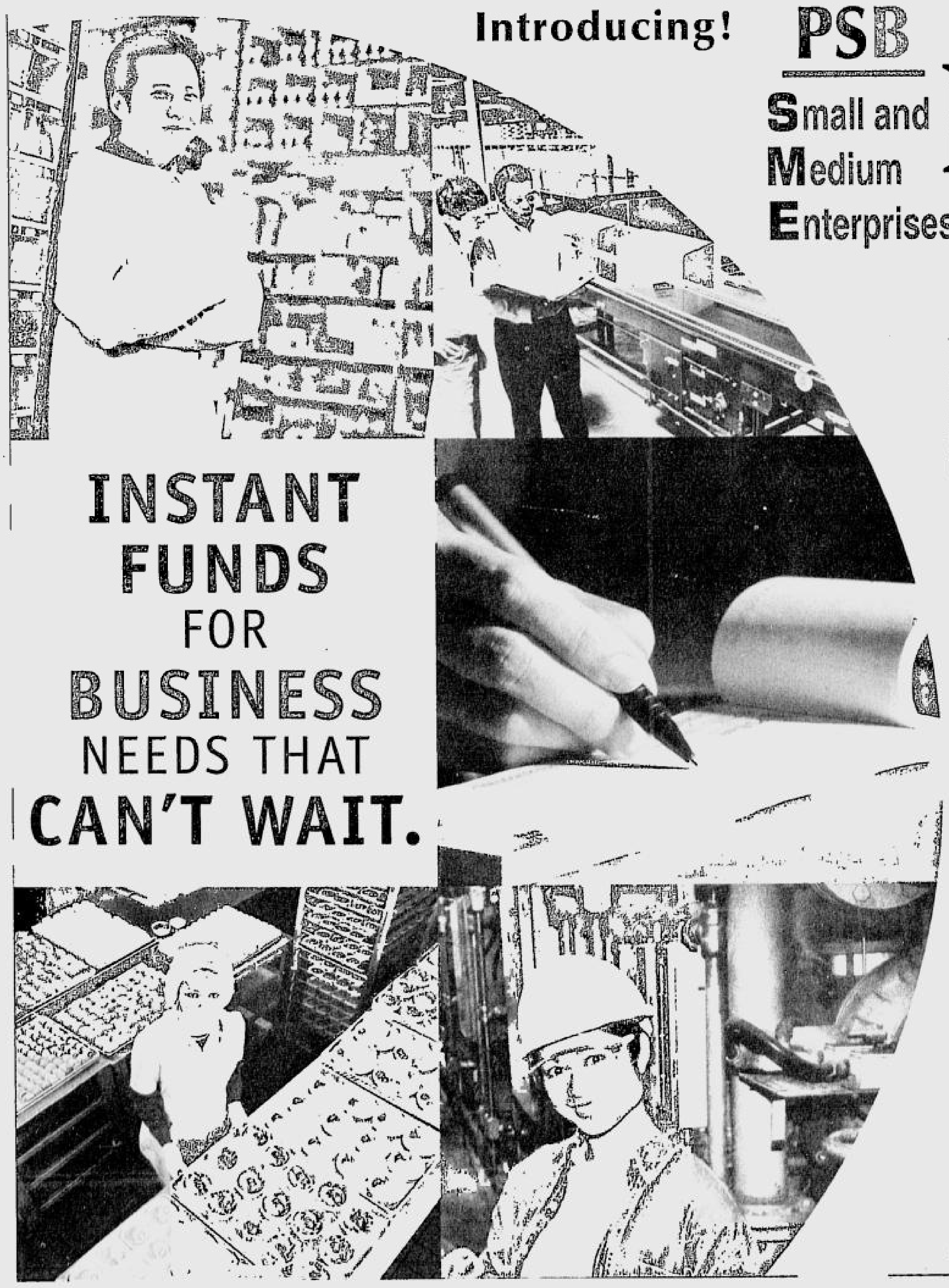
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THE INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS
COURSE OFFERINGS FOR AUGUST, 2003

AUDIT REFORMS & AUDIT COMMITTEES
August 20, Wednesday
8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Makati A Room, Makati Shangri-La

Helping Audit Committees, CEOs, CFOs, and Boards navigate an uncertain environment and enhance shareholder value, as the spotlight on audit committees grows stronger and harsher given more complex responsibilities and actions. With a special focus on Audit Committee activities, the course covers the following topics:

- The Audit Environment in the Philippines
- Corporate Governance and Audit Committees
- Key Summary Points for Board Audit Committees
- Practical Guidelines for directors in Audit Committees, with specific focus on:
    - Audit Committee Charter
    - Audit Committee Self-Assessment Guides
    - Sample Questions for Audit Committees
    - Sample Audit Committee Schedules

RISK OVERSIGHT FOR DIRECTORS
August 21, Thursday
8:45 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Quezon A Room, Makati Shangri-La

Risk Assessment and Management is a key element in any corporate governance process. Helping Directors understand risk assessment and management, the course covers the following topics:

- Overview: Corporate Governance and Risk management
- Corporate Directors and Risk Management
- Practical Guideline for Directors in Risk Management Committees, with special focus on:
    - Financial reporting "Red Flags" and Key Risk Factors
    - Role of the Board in Enron's Collapse: Findings and recommendations
    - MD&A as a Risk Exposure Checklist
    - Success Drivers

In addition to lectures, both courses include panel discussions on various Audit Reforms-Audit Committee and Risk Management-RM Committee issues by leading directors, audit practitioners, and risk management experts.

For reservations and enrolment, call Mr. JJ Moreno, Mr. Adrian Yao, Ms. Marie Yap-Recomono, or Ms. Charo Facundo at 8841493; 8841494; 884149

AFP'S pension fund: Where's the money?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

ONE of the Oakwood mutineers' demands was the investigation of the AFP's Retirement and Separation Benefits System. While the mutiny was wrong and the ringleaders should be brought to justice, Malacañang should settle the RSBS mess once and for all.

In the RSBS case, our servicemen and servicewomen have a valid and solid gripe.

Every year up to 1973, military pensions were tacked on to the annual budget of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. After serving for 30 years, a serviceman retired with a lump sum equal to his last monthly pay times 30, or a monthly pension according to a certain formula.

It was what was called a pay-as-you-go pension scheme. The pension was a fringe benefit costing the serviceman absolutely nothing.

Then, in December 1973, Marcos changed the funding of the system. He decreed (the decree was one of several which were never published during the dictatorship) that four percent, later raised to five percent, of the salary of every serviceman, from general down to private, be contributed into a pension fund.

To manage the fund, a new entity, the Retirement and Separation Benefits System, was created. Nobody complained that the pension plan was no longer free. Anyway, the deduction from, a serviceman's salary was his forced savings to be returned to him, plus earnings, when he retired. Besides, the country was under martial law.

Marcos ordered the Treasury to transfer, in four equal semi-annual installments, P200 million into the fund, as seed money. Except for this amount, no government money has ever been contributed into the fund. In contrast, the government regularly contributes to the Government Service Insurance System the equivalent of 10 percent of the salaries for civilian employees.

The idea was to make the fund self-sustaining. Money not immediately needed was supposed to be invested. As the money grew, more benefits were supposed to go to the serviceman. But Marcos forgot to set the rules on investments, except that every investment was to be decided by the Chief of Staff and approved by the Secretary of Defense. He also forgot that even a decorated general might not be an efficient investment manager.

In 1999, Defense Secretary Orly Mercado (one of the best defense secretaries we ever had) blew the whistle. RSBS, run all those years by retired generals and admirals, was hopelessly bankrupt. Its annual income of P450 million from contributions was simply no longer enough to service the pension scheme and—P8 billion in debt.

How RSBS wound up so deeply in debt is a horror story by itself. Pension funds do not borrow money; they are, in fact, in the business of lending money.

But RSBS borrowed money at as high as 22 percent and lent it at as low as 9 percent. RSBS lent to brand-new corporations set up by retired officers. Insurance companies in the private sector are not allowed to do this under the Insurance Code.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court reversing the restraining order of the lower court in General Santos City is one example of the shenanigans at RSBS. The case involves the purchase of a clearly overpriced piece of land. Another case involves a company that borrowed from RSBS to buy land in Bulacan to be developed into a golf course. And, when the NPA demanded a P4-million revolutionary tax, the company of retired military officers meekly paid.

Two-thirds of the investments of RSBS was in real estate. This policy rendered RSBS illiquid. And when the real estate market collapsed, RSBS collapsed along with it. In the private sector, investments of insurance companies in real estate do not reach 10 percent of total investments.

Except for the case in General Santos City, no case has been filed in connection with the plunder of the pension fund.

How can we expect our troops to chase the MILF, NPA and the Abu Sayaff terrorists when their forced savings are being ravaged and plundered in Camp Aguinaldo? And the guilty ones go scot-free and build mansions in upscale subdivisions. Abdel Nasser never built a mansion. When he died, after years as Egyptian dictator, he was still living in a government housing unit reserved for colonels.

The Oakwood mutineers might have broken the articles of war, but their gripe regarding the pension fund, and other gripes as well, should be looked into seriously once and for all. Some retired generals should be sent to the firing squad—of privates.

Destiny to beef up data, telecom unit

By Abigail L. Ho

STILL reeling from the blow caused by the pullout of top-rating programs from its lineup, Destiny Cable Inc. is beefing up its data and telecommunications business with the entry of a foreign strategic partner within the year.

"We're trying to beef up our data and telecoms business. This should augment some of the big losses (we incurred) from the migration (we experienced in our cable business)," Destiny president and chief executive David Lim said in an interview.

Star Group Ltd. decided late last year not to renew its contract with Destiny for five of its top-rating programs—ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies and National Geographic—citing commercial reasons.

Just this month, action channel AXN, which featured popular shows like CSI, Alias, Survivor and Amazing Race, pulled out of Destiny's program roster, also because of commercial issues.

Lim said these pullouts caused the migration of some of their subscribers to dominant cable firms SkyCable Central CATV Inc. and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. of the Beyond Cable Holdings Inc. consortium.

"They just got back the subscribers they lost to us when Star TV pulled out of their lineups two years ago," he said.

While still giving ample attention to its cable television business, he said Destiny would be focusing on data and telecommunications to drive the company's overall growth.

To support this, a foreign strategic partner would be coming in within the year to infuse technological capability and new equipment into the company.

"We've talked to a lot of foreign firms, but there's one company with whom we're very close to closing a deal. That company's already one of our existing partners," Lim said.

He noted that there was no need for fresh equity infusion from both Destiny and its potential partner as all required infrastructure were already in place.

On the side of the foreign partner, he said the foreign firm just had to bring in its own equipment to be put on top of Destiny's existing data and telecommunications infrastructure.

"Their equipment can be put down as their investments in the company," he said.

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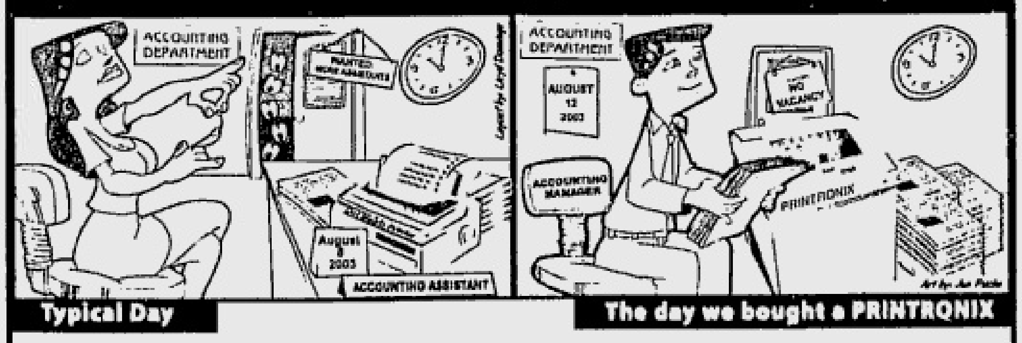

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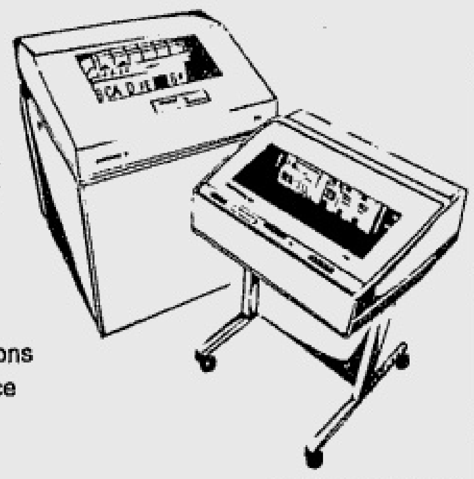

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DOE to hold petroleum exploration roadshow

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy will embark on an international roadshow to lure foreign investors into participating in the country's heightened petroleum exploration efforts.

The roadshow will specifically target Southeast Asian, American and European investors.

Energy Undersecretary Eduardo Mañalac said the roadshow was scheduled to kick off in Singapore in the middle of September during the Southeast Asia Petroleum Explorers Association (Seapex) 2003 conference.

"I will be presenting to more investors in the region what we have told some 50 companies here in Manila last week," Mañalac said.

The DOE launched last Aug. 5 the first public petroleum contracting round, which aimed to make the system of awarding of exploration contracts more competitive than the old first-come, first-served system.

"We are going to tell more people how competitive our terms for exploration are compared with what other countries offer."

The official said his counterparts from Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia would also make their pitches during the Seapex conference.

"After that, we would be going to Houston in Texas and to London in October. Its a continuing campaign."

He explained that the government wanted to change the notion of investors that the country was not very attractive in terms petroleum reserves.

"If there is substantial oil in Malaysia or Indonesia, we'll tell them that we share the same geology with the oil provinces in these countries."

Mañalac added: "The key is for exploration firms to drill more wells. Who knows, we may have 'elephant' reserves here, much bigger than Malampaya."

Mañalac said the country has remained largely unexplored, with only one well being drilled this year.

DOE records show that the country has an average recoverable petroleum resource of equivalent to at least 8.9 billion barrels of oil, 85 percent of which has yet to be discovered.

Of the total petroleum resources, natural gas accounts for an equivalent of 5 billion barrels of oil, crude oil represents 3.6 billion barrels while condensate accounts for 200 million barrels.

Currently, the country is producing 500 to 600 barrels of oil, 250 to 260 million cubic feet of gas and 25,000 barrels of condensate per day.

Iligan to condone ₱171M in NSC debt

By Michelle V. Remo

THE LOCAL government of Iligan City said it was willing to condone outstanding real property taxes owed by National Steel Corp. to allow the reopening of the cash-strapped steel firm as soon as possible.

Iligan City Mayor Franklin Quijano, Vice Mayor Lawrence Cruz and members of the Iligan City Council have responded favorably to calls for the Iligan City government to write-off NSC's tax liabilities, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said.

NSC's debt to the Iligan City government, amounting to P171 million in real property taxes, was considered one of the major hindrances in attracting investors who will revive the mothballed NSC.

In a meeting last week, Iligan City officials assured the trade and industry chief that they were willing to write off NSC's tax liabilities as provided by the Local Government Code.

"This meant breaking new grounds in our efforts to fast-track the reopening of NSC. While the city government may have to forego real estate revenue, Iligan folks stand to benefit from the reopening of the steel plant with the additional 500 to 600 new jobs it will provide and the increased economic activities it can generate," said Roxas in a statement.

Roxas added that to further facilitate the reopening of the steel firm, NSC investors will be given income tax holiday for five years.

Aside from the write-off of the P171 million in tax liabilities of NSC, Malaysian shareholder Pengurusan Danaharta Nacional Berhad and the steel firm's creditor banks agreed to condone $790 million and P10 billion in obligations, respectively.

The Department of Trade and Industry has engaged the services of a financial and technical adviser to bring in investors who will ensure the sustainable operation of NSC. It said that four foreign and local investors have expressed concrete interest in leasing or buying the NSC plant. Prospective investors are currently conducting due diligence on the company with NSC's creditor banks. The DTI aims to reopen the steel plant within the year.

CEB to hit 10M passenger mark

CEBU Pacific Air (CEB) is set to carry its 10 millionth revenue passenger this month August, a little more than five months after its seventh anniversary.

According to CEB general manager Danilo "Bong" Mojica, the airline is now closely monitoring passenger count through an automated check-in system called the Departure Control System (DCS), which enables quick access to information on passenger boarding.

"Since all our stations are online, it is easy to keep track of the number of passengers that fly with us in a day," said Mojica. "We likewise have daily summary reports on our passengers, which help us forecast when the 10 millionth passenger will board."

CEB's most significant passenger milestone since its first million, the 10 millionth passenger will receive a travel pass that will entitle him and a companion to unlimited travel in the airline's domestic destinations. The pass is valid for 10 months.

Initially averaging a million a year in its first three years of operations, Cebu Pacific's load rose sharply in its fourth year, when it hit the 4-millionth mark three months shy of its fourth year.

The airline's 6-millionth mark was hit just two months after it turned five. On Valentine's Day 2003, the airline flew its nine millionth revenue passenger, one month before its seventh birthday.

CEB's market share as of July 15, 2003 is 34.5 percent in the routes that it serves, almost three percentage points higher than its market share during the same period last year.

Mojica cites CEB's on time performance as a major factor in the airline's growth.

"According to our surveys, punctuality of flights is one of the top priorities of passengers in choosing an airline," said Mojica. "People seem to appreciate the convenience of not being made to wait."

CEB's on time performance has further improved in its seven years of operations. As of May 31, 2003, punctuality for domestic flight departures averaged at 95.2 percent while arrivals at 96.3 percent. For its international operations, 95.4 percent of its flights departed promptly while 96.8 arrived on time.

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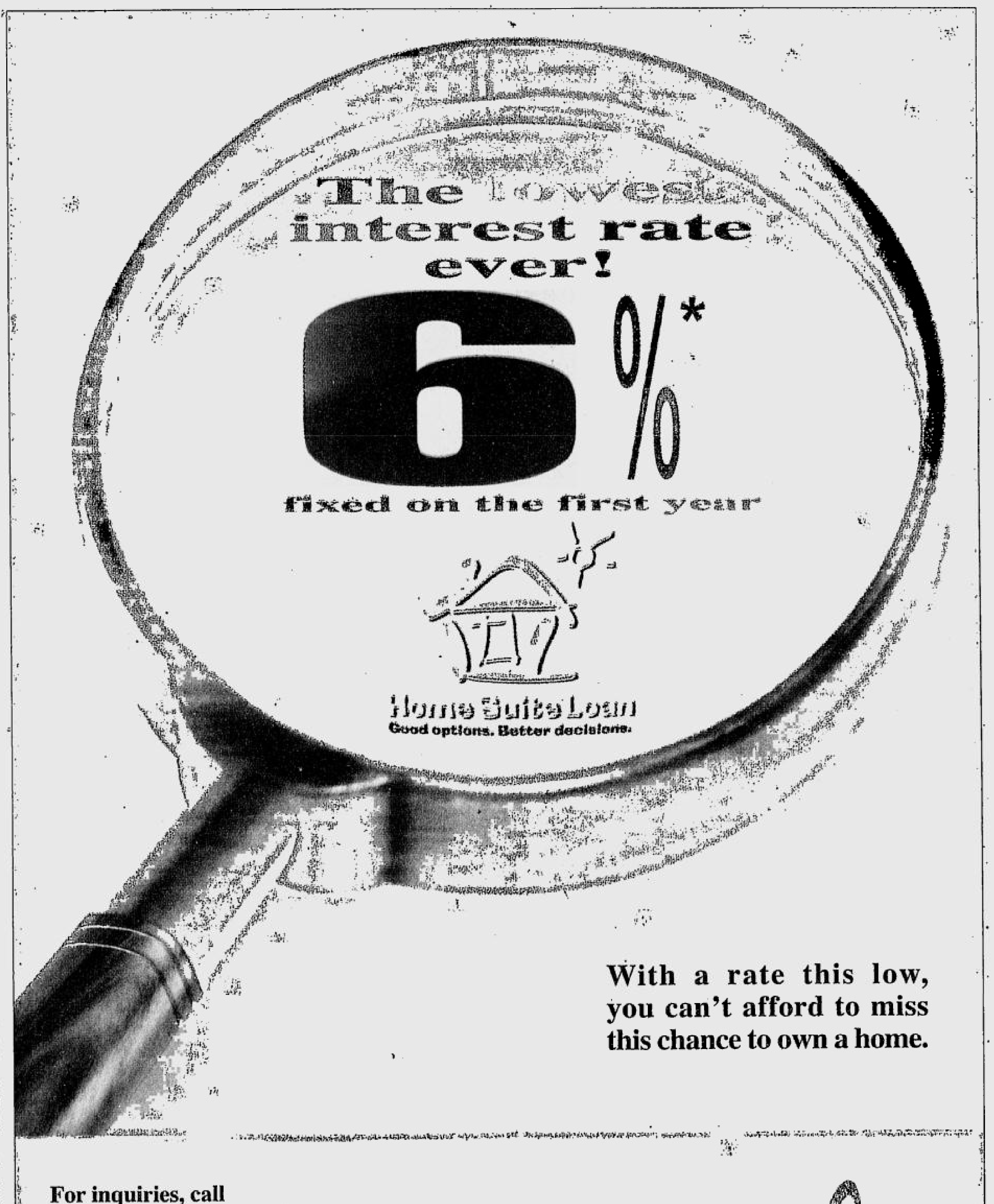

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Editor Aries Espinosa

SM Foundation fetes scholars

SM FOUNDATION recently honored the new batch of graduates of its College Scholarship Program at a simple but heartwarming ceremony at the new SM Corporate Center.

No less than SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr., and Felicidad Sy led the well-wishers that included SM vice chair Senen Mendiola, SVP for operations Jorge Mediola, and SM Foundation executive directors Linda Atayde and Connie Angeles.

Also joining them were their parents and the officials of their schools. The latter included Asia Pacific College Dr. Paulino Tan, Far Eastern University president Lydia Echauz, Eacit president Richard Jude Limgenco, Philippine Normal University dean of students Dr. Gabriel Oriartet, PLM's dean of student affairs Elizabeth Sacop, and UE's dean of student affairs Dr. Trinidad Abenojar.

Batch 2003 had some of the best and the brightest, including a magna cum laude, Casilda Gildo, who graduated from the 'University of San Agustin in Iloilo with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy.

The batch also had twenty cum laude graduates: Marlene Arboleda, Michaela Calma, Amaflor Casi, Jhoanna Derada, Jennifer Diaz, Jenifer Galorio, Raymund Germinal, Mary Rose Lelis, Jennifer Ludovica, Jona Maninang, and Mark Jeffrery Magauay. Also included in the list are Antoniette Muanones, Ana Jane Narca, Mary Rose Ofialda, Hiyasmin Otani, Reneboy Payong, Cecil Perez, Ma. Gloria Sombrado and Yeseil Sumalde. Therer are also two academic excellence graduates in the group - Isagani Lorica and Orville Mangalus.

SM Foundation executive director Linda Atayde began the program with her welcoming remarks citing the 71 new graduates, which included twenty two honor graduates and 19 new teachers. The scholars' parents then responded through Amanda Florentina Casi and Renato Payong, both of who expressed their heartfelt thanks to SM Foundation and to Henry Sy Sr. who they said had a kind heart. Afterwards, the scholars then expressed their thanks. Closing remarks were then delivered by SM Investments CFP Jose Sio.

As a souvenir, the graduates were each given a wristwatch engraved with the SM Foundation logo and their batch, a certificate of appreciation, and a copy of the inspiring speech of Henry Sy Sr., delivered when the De La Salle University honored him with a doctorate degree. The graduates then serenaded him with their rendition of "Thanks to You."

SM Foundation's College Scholarship Program assists poor but deserving students who wish to complete degrees. It has 400 students at any given time.

MR AND Ms Henry Sy with the Computer Engineering graduates, from left, Almer Cantilado, Jeffrey Jay Madrona, Orville Mangalus, Melissa Bernido, Paul Evans Hernandez, Victoria Ricafort, Jaime Diaz, Renesar Gabay, Ruth Magalit, Rocky Reyes, Jezreel Morada, Reyvie Manalo, Catherine Vargas, Eurick Quijoy, Mince Bomblingo, Leandro Santos, and Isagani Lorica.

BANKEE TRADING, ANCHOR MILK CONCLUDE AGREEMENT

Bankee Trading, exclusive distributor of the original Crush Gear by Bandai, concluded its Turbo Challenge with Anchor Milk as its main presentor. Shown, from left, are Cara Confessor, brand manager, Chat Guillermo, marketing manager, Marvie R. Samala, marketing/ad promo manager, Bankee Trading, and Joseph de Leon, brand associate fro Crush Gear.

ISUZU SHINES ANEW IN CUP AWARDS

In this year's 14th Annual National Consumers Awards (Anca), Isuzu Philippines Corp (IPC) bagged the prestigious Outstanding Manufacturer of Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV) award for its Hi-Lander Crosswind, the second time for the popular AUV to receive such a citation. IPC was also honored the Outstanding Manufacturer of Light Trucks for its Fuego pick-up, further illustrating IPC's commitment towards product excellence. The July 4 event held at the Westin Philippine Plazá was a project of the Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP). IPC was the very first vehicle manufacturer to be awarded in the 13th Anca as the Outstanding Manufacturer of AUVs in May 2002. Receiving the awards in behalf of IPC are executive vice president Kazuhiko Sho (3rd from left) and vice president Arthur Balmadrid (2nd from right). Also shown is commissioner Quirino Marquinez (2nd from left), president of the CUP.

QC MAYOR VISITS MFI

Mayor Feliciano 'Sonny' Belmonte (left) of Quezon City was a recent guest of Meralco Foundation Institute (MFI), as he goes on a guided tour of the school's facilities by MFI president Col. Alejandro T. Escano (2nd from left). The QC chief executive visited MFI to look into the condition of MFI scholars from Quezon City and to seek the cooperation of MFI in establishing a quality voctech school in Quezon City via the preparation of curriculum and training of trainors for the planned school of the premiere city.

Touch Mobile continues aggressive sales program

TRUE to its commitment of reaching out to more people, especially those from far-flung areas of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, Touch Mobile is continuing its aggressive sales effort to make its service more accessible to mobile phone users nationwide.

Through a monthly activity called the "Touchmania Sales Blitz", thousands of Touch Mobile subscribers from the suburban and rural areas have availed themselves of the brand's expanded services and have enjoyed discounts and various promotional giveaways such as T-shirts, drink tumblers, and even gift certificates for groceries.

Every month, Touch Mobile sets up attractively merchandised selling booths or "blitzes" in high-traffic shopping malls around the country. The program successfully brings in thousands of new Touch Mobile subscribers from different cities and towns.

Touchmania sales blitzes have been held in the following malls: Fiesta and Caedo in Batangas, Target, Pavilion, San Pablo Shopping Center, and Liana's Discount City in Laguna, Magic in Urdaneta, CSI in Dagupan, Magic Star in Tarlac, all Gaisano malls in Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Marbel and Butuan, Victoria Plaza in Davao City, Facurong Fitmart in Tacurong, De Rose Shopping Center and Midsayap, Cotabato, Star and Sta. Lucia in GMA, and all SM supermalls and Robinsons malls nationwide.

More sales blitzes are scheduled to be put up in several malls in the coming months.

Touchmania sales blitzes also offer prospective subscribers discounted phone kits and the Touch Mobile's Value SIM pack priced at only P140.

Trial booths are also put up in selected malls to allow passers-by free trial of Touch Mobile's unique services, including karaoke, voice information and voice messaging.

The "Touchmania Sales Blitz" is part of Touch Mobile's dynamic network marketing rollout program to reinforce its strong connectivity and celebrate its proven nationwide coverage especially in the regional areas.

Securing the home is now top priority

JUST how secure are you in your own home?

This is the big question now nagging most people who have experienced burglaries and those who have realized that their locks can be picked or their house keys can be duplicated by just anyone.

This realization often comes at a time when a friend or neighbor has already become a victim. And in some cases, the intrusion would hardly show any sign of forced entry.

Then the witchhunt begins, often ending with the homeowner getting a share of the blame. Why not?

All these years people know that anyone who gets hold of somebody else's key can just go to any locksmith and have it duplicated without any questions asked about its ownership.

In fact, many homeowners would even send their maids to do that errand, unmindful of the security risks involved.

Yet, such risks had long been glossed over and ignored until a new lock system was devised to solve those security problems.

Called Mul-T-Lock, this high-security system is a product of the world-famous Israeli security technology, setting it far apart from the traditional lock and key that most people are familiar with.

"Thus, more and more housewives are becoming aware that not all locks are the same," said Norman K. Torres, managing director of Mul-T-Lock's exclusive local distributor Felport International Marketing (tel. 7215498, 7229011, 7273862).

"Mul-T-Lock uses high-security cylinders that cannot be picked or easily destroyed. It is equipped with sophisticated keys that cannot be duplicated without the owner's authorization," Torres added.

This is made possible by a special ATM-like key card that identifies ownership and must be presented to any authorized key center before the keys can be duplicated. Restrictive key duplication procedures are strictly followed worldwide to prevent the unauthorized duplication of keys.

Mul-T-Lock is so high-tech that this system allows the use of a single key for practically everything-from padlocks, doorknobs and rimlocks to cabinet locks, doors, safes and many more, without compromise.

"Moreover, access to various household areas can be controlled. For example, the maid's key can have access to only certain designated chambers of the house, while the children's keys can open all the rooms, except their parents'. On the other hand, the parents' key can open, not only all the rooms, but also everything in the house, including safety vaults and all other vital storage facilities," Torres explained.

With millions of combinations available through the computerized fabrication of keys, a specific system can be made to fit into the user's requirements.

Even old traditional locks can be retrofitted to have this high level of security and form part of the system.

"In fact, with Mul-T-Lock, even the whole system itself can be changed without changing the locks, only their combinations," Torres added.

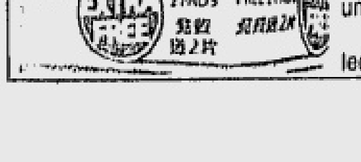
This has effectively controlled internal and external thefts without having to spend too much on security surveillance systems for big houses.

"Well, you can put everything to augment your household security, but the quality and system of your locks would still be your first and last line of defense against intruders," Torres added.

Product FILES

Dr. P promo

IN LINE with the company's objectives of giving its users more value for their money, and as a way of thanking them for their continued patronage, East Valley Enterprise Inc., exclusive distributor of Dr. P adult diapers in the Philippines, recently launched its 10+2 promo.

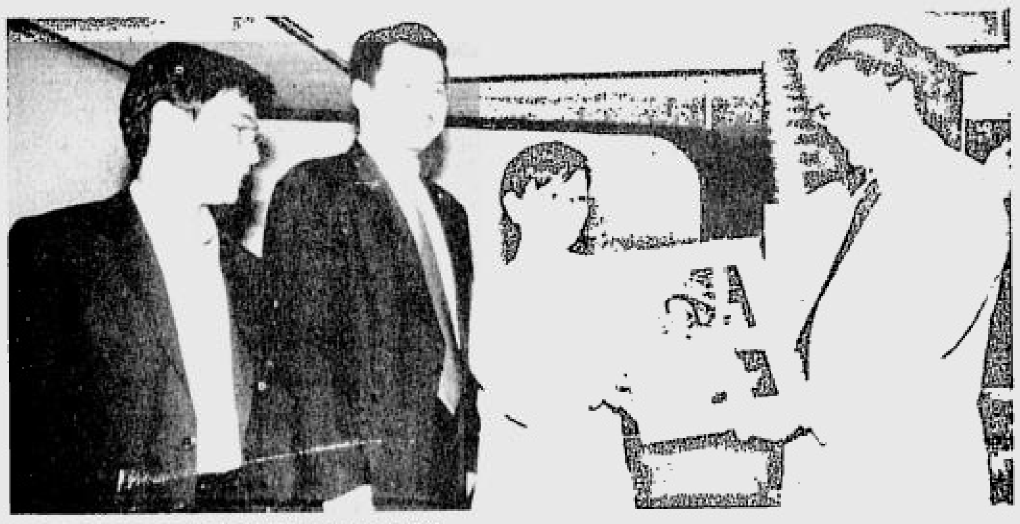


Buyers of Dr. P Standard Medium pack of 10 diapers get an additional two more free. Dr. P is designed with a super absorbent pad, an antibiosis that protects against infections and odor-causing germs, and a deodorization layer that neutralizes unpleasant odors.

Dr. P's 10+2 promo is available at selected leading supermarkets nationwide.

McDo supports 'Graindell'

"GRAINDELL," the book about the "planetoid shaped like a little eye," is now an animated movie. Following its launch during National Children's Book Day July 15 at Museo Pambata, "Graindell" goes back to the museum's Kalikasan Hall on Saturday, Aug. 16, for the premiere of its computer-animated version. The event will also feature RiceWorld, the world's biggest rice museum located in Los Baños, plus talks on nutrition, educational games, and bookselling. Afterwards, the participants will enjoy a hearty snack, courtesy of McDonald's. The affair is the first members-only activity organized for the Graindell Club. Membership is open to kids aged 10 and below, and adults who share the vision of building a "home for tomorrow" for today's children. Limited seats are available. To sign up for membership and make reservations, call 845-0563 local 2423 (Anna) or 2268 (Kris) during office hours today, Aug. 11.



PRIME MAGAZINE LAUNCHED

The Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP) recently launched Prime, a new magazine that focuses on issues and concerns affecting the local banking industry. Prime is a business feature magazine, an investment handbook, a lifestyle and leisure guide and an events chronicler all rolled into one. The launch was held recently at the Metropolitan Museum in Manila. Shown is Prime executive editor Veronica Tapia-Merk (2nd from right) presenting the token of appreciation to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who appears on the cover of Prime's maiden issue. Looking on are (from left) Prime editor-in-chief Raul Dancel, and Prime editorial adviser and BMAP president Allan Tumbaga.

MBAI ADOPTS EDS FINGERID SYSTEM

As part of the Armed Forces and Police Mutual Benefit Association Inc (AFP-MBAI) objective to enhance and modernize its services, it has integrated a Fingerprint Identification system into its client verification process. Supplied by EDS Innoventions Inc, the Fingerprint Identification system has substantially reduced the processing time when members, mostly soldiers from the AFP, claim their benefits and dividends. The system is planned for rollout to all its 26 branches nationwide. Shown inspecting the system are (from left, standing) Col. Alfonso Suemith, MBAI president, Fred Antonio, head of information systems, Clarito Altares, systems designer, and engineer Emmanuel Sia, EDS Innoventions president.

Bayantel sees restructuring of $477M in debt

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-OWNED Bayan Telecommunications Inc. expressed confidence that it would finally sign a restructuring agreement covering more than $477 million in debt before the end of the year.

BayanTel vice chair Eugenio Lopez III said in an interview that the cash-strapped firm's secured and unsecured creditors were now discussing the debt restructuring proposal and that a final decision should be handed down within the year.

"(Our creditors) have already agreed to our proposal. They're just discussing how the sharing would be between them. We expect to sign an agreement within the year," he told the INQUIRER.

He said BayanTel had suggested how the sharing should be between the secured and unsecured creditors in its proposal, but this was still subject to the creditors' approval.

"We submitted an indicative proposal to them. We also gave them the sustainable debt that BayanTel could service," he said.

With major hurdles now out of the way, Lopez expressed confidence that a debt restructuring agreement would finally be signed after more than two years of negotiations.

Of the company's total debts, around $226 million is unsecured or is not backed by collateral or assets.

Two years ago, BayanTel sought the write-off of 25 percent of its unsecured debts as well as 18 months worth of interest charges starting Jan. 19, 2001.

The debt-ridden firm also asked that the payment period for its debts be stretched to 15 years with a five-year grace period on principal payments.

It proposed interest rates of one percentage point over the three-month London interbank offered rate (Libor) for dollar-denominated debts and one-percentage point over the 91-day Treasury bill rate for peso-denominated loans.

Since then, some adjustments had been made on the proposal, especially with the entry of Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia that replaced Bank of America Asia Ltd. as BayanTel financial adviser in June last year.

The company's creditors had likewise given their feedback on the proposal.

Lopez declined to reveal the indicative terms that BayanTel proposed in its final restructuring proposal.

PSE to invite Asian, London NY exchanges as partners

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange plans to invite the stock exchanges in Asia, London and New York to become strategic partners to enhance its image and value in preparation for its own listing.

In documents furnished the Securities and Exchange Commission, the PSE, currently owned by stockbrokers, noted that investors were likely to value its shares on an earnings basis, and therefore, a strategic investor and timing of the listing would be "crucial to reap the required valuations."

The International Finance Corp., the private investment arm of the World Bank and an interested investor in the PSE, had recommended that the exchange consider developed exchanges within Asia as potential partners.

The PSE, however, said it would not confine itself to the region and it would consider exchanges in major financial centers such as the London and New York Stock Exchanges.

The PSE is considering three options for its listing:

- to list itself in its entirety including subsidiaries and properties;
- to list the exchange but only after properties had been transferred into a new corporation owned by the present shareholders of PSE;
- to retain the properties and transfer the stock exchange business to a new company initially owned by the current PSE stockholders.

The license to operate as a stock exchange would then be transferred to the new company, which would then be the vehicle used for the listing. The existing PSE, on the other hand, would be converted into a holding company of the properties.

In line with the terms of donors, the Makati and Tektite trading floors of the PSE would become the properties of the exchange next year. The PSE would also own a property in Fort Bonifacio.

The PSE said that "given that existing shareholders will derive very little value from including the properties in the listed vehicle, options two and three are carefully being considered."

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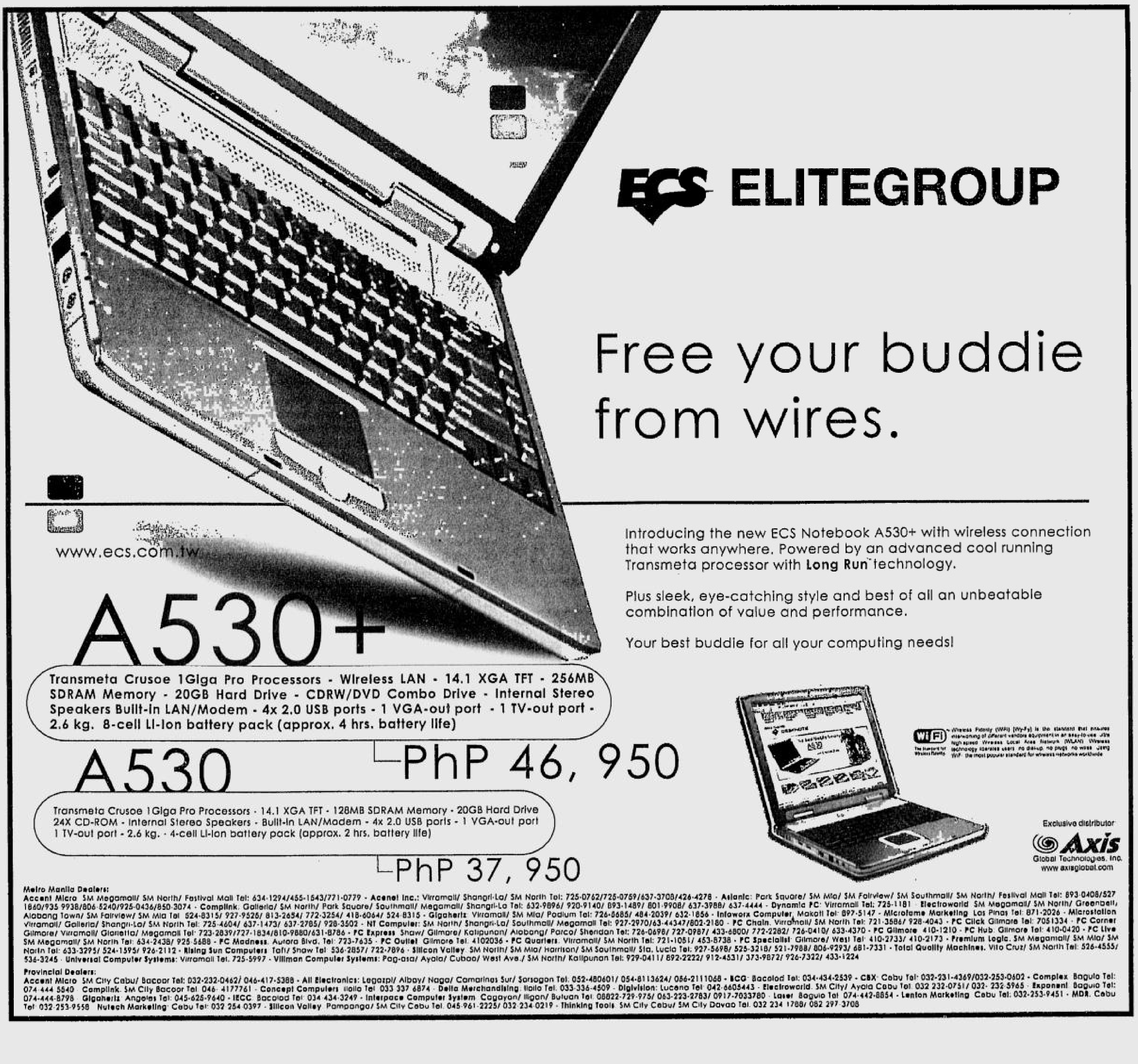
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5271590

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the heirs of the late NARCISA MANUEL & the husband MARIANO MANUEL executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver of rights duly acknowledge before notary public Raymundo Defante Jr. in Makati City Phils. per Doc 104, Page 21, Book LV, series of 2003 (PDI-July 28, Aug. 4, & 11 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sixto Llado & Genoveva Hernandez was adjudicated to Jaine Esquilon, Epifanio, Quirino & Resurreccion as per Doc. 393 Page 80 Book 04 series of 2003 before Notary Public Cesar T. Ching of Mrkn.City PDI-Aug. 11,18 & 25,2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Jose S. Laurel, III who died at Alabang, Muntinlupa City last January 6, 2003 has been extra-judicially settled by and among his heirs, in a document dated August 5, 2003, acknowledged before Notary Public Jose A. Olveros of Pasig City, Doc. No. 1, Page 2, Book I, Series of 2003 of his Notarial Register. (PDI- Aug. 11, 18, & 25 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that Medical Doctor's Inc. stock certificate no. 1626 under the name of **ELVIRA S. EDUQUE** were reported lost.
(PDI-August 4, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the Public that **RELIABLE RECRUITMENT CORP.** Vigan Branch Office has moved to **2nd Floor Isidoro Bldg. cor. Liberation Boulevard, Quezon Avenue, Vigan, Ilocos Sur** with Tel. No. **7221363.**
(PDI - Aug. 11, 2003)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Air-condtioning Units (5 Tonner)

All interested dealers/suppliers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the following requirements of the Department, for delivery and installation at the Imus Museum:

11 units Ceiling mounted
07 units Floor mounted (vertical)

Deadline for submission of pre-qualification requirements is on **15 August 2003 (Friday)**, after which bid forms shall be made available to pre-qualified bidders. Opening of Sealed bids is on:

DATE : **25 August 2003 (Monday)**
TIME : **2:30 p.m.**
PLACE : **Room 307, 3rd Floor, DOT building**

in the presence of all participating bidders or their authorized representative(s). *A pre bid conference shall be held on 20 August 2003* (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m. at the Imus Museum.

The list of pre-qualification requirements may be secured Room 309, 3rd Floor, DOT Building, T.M. Ermita, Manila. For further inquiries, please call up telephone nos. 5253744 and 5238411 to 30 loc. 238.

The DOT reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein, and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

01 August 2003.

(Sgd.) ASEC. MA. THERESA I. MARTINEZ
PBAC-Chairperson

(PDI--Aug. 8, 11 & 12, 2003)

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT: www.jobmarketonline.com

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AT THE DIRECTORS' AND STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF EPSILON HOLDINGS CORPORATION HELD ON 4 AUGUST 2003 AT ITS PRINCIPAL OFFICES LOCATED AT THE GROUND FLOOR, TRINITY BUILDING, T.M. KALAW STREET, ERMITA, MANILA, THE MAJORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE STOCKHOLDERS REPRESENTING MORE THAN 2/3 OF THE OUTSTANDING CAPITAL STOCK OF THE CORPORATION HAVE DECIDED TO EFFECT THE VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION BY AMENDING ITS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION TO SHORTEN ITS CORPORATE TERM TO 15 AUGUST 2003.

(PDI – AUGUST 11, 18 & 25, 2003)

NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
Quezon Memorial Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority invites road, building, garbage disposal and sewerage treatment plant contractors who have completed similar projects costing at least 50% of the proposed contract and accredited with PCAB to bid for the contracts listed below:

Contract Package/ Location	Approved Budget	PCAB License	Work Description/ Duration
Completion of Remaining Land Development Works, Garbage Disposal, Construction of Sewage Treatment and Repair of Permanent Housing at Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project, Tondo, Manila	P230.00 mil.	"AAA/LB for Roads, Buildings and Sewerage	Land development works including road works, garbage disposal and construction of sewarage treatment plant

A. Interested contractors are required to secure from the BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City the list of basic requirements for registration and eligibility. Only NHA registered contractors shall be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Unregistered bidders must register not later than the deadline of submission of letter of intent on August 25, 2003

B. The schedules of the eligibility screening and bidding activities are as follows:

Issuance of Application for Eligibility Forms	- August 13-26, 2003
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Req'ts	- August 26, 2003/10:00 a.m.
Issuance of Bid Documents	- September 1-8, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference	- September 9, 2003
Dropping of Bids/Opening of Bids	- September 30, 2003 not later than 10:00 a.m.

C. Eligibility requirements forms may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the NHA-BAC Secretariat Office with Tel. Nos. 929-8016 and 928-4561/65 local 252.

D. Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00.

E. Bid security/deposits shall be in the form of cash, manager's or cashier's check only.

F. The provisions of the IRR of EO 40 shall govern all particulars relative to registration, eligibility screening, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract.

G. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug 11, 2003)

---

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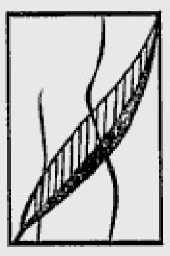

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28-30 November 2003

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A perfect launching venue for health and wellness products and services

Introduce your products and services during the 3-day information-packed program at the Event Activity Area. Get trade opportunities, industry trends, and market developments..

Expected Visitors

Store Merchandisers, Distributors, Wholesalers, Purchasing Managers, Foreign and Local-based Trade Buyers, Retailers, Catering and Food Companies, Medical Practitioners, Healthcare Specialists, Hospital Operators, Health Workers, Specialty Stores Operators, Entrepreneurs, Health Buffs, General Public

What's on Exhibit

- Natural/Herbal/Organic Food Products
- Food Supplements (Natural/Organic/Processed) BFAD/DOH Approved Medicines
- Consumer Health Care
- Wellness/Lifestyle Products
- Exercise/Fitness and Healthy Living
- Cosmetics, Skin, Hair, and Personal
- Care Products
- HMO, Medical Insurance, Hospitals, & Medical Clinics
- Medical/Sports Equipment & Hardware
- Alternative Medicine
- Alternative Health Practices
- Allied Products/Services

Highlights of Activities

- A showcase of different health, wellness, and beauty products by over 60 companies.
- Free lectures by medical/health experts
- Free demonstration on health exercises
- Free consultations/clinics by practitioners such as iridology, reflexology, facial services, bone density test, eye check -up, etc.
- Hands-on demonstration on different products and services.
- Business opportunity seminars by leading health companies.
- Product launching and food tasting

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Day before publication

In Memory of our Beloved

Atty. RAZON TUMBOCON-HARESCO

on her 2nd Death Anniversary
August 11, 2003

Her children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join the family in prayer for the eternal repose of Nanny Zoning's soul.

Holy Masses will be offered by her friends in the Clergy at the following churches:

Church	Celebrated By	Address	Time/Date
St. Nicholas of Tolentine Cathedral	Most Rev. Sofronio A. Bancud, SSS, DD Bishop of Cabanatuan	Cabanatuan City	6:00 AM (August 11) 5:30 PM
San Sebastian Cathedral	Most Rev. Florentino F. Cinense, DD Bishop of Tarlac	Tarlac City	9:00 AM (August 11)
Divine Mercy Shrine	Most Rev. Bishop Camilo D. Gregorio, DD Bishop-Emeritus of Bacolod	Mandaluyong City	7:00 AM (August 11)
Sta. Clara Monastery	Most Rev. Emilio Z. Marquez, DD Co-Adjutor Bishop of Lucena	Sariaya, Quezon	9:00 AM (August 11)
Christ the King Parish Church	Most Rev. Bishop Raul Martirez, DD	Greenmeadows, Quezon City	6:00 AM (August 11)
Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage	Most Rev. Gabriel V. Reyes, DD Bishop of Antipolo	Antipolo City	6:30 AM (August 11)
St. Peter the Apostles Parish	Most Rev. Jose Corazon T. Tala-Oc, DD Bishop of Romblon	Ibajay, Aklan	10:00 AM (August 22)
St. Dominic Cathedral	Most Rev. Ramon B. Villena, DD Bishop of Nueva Vizcaya	Bayumbong, Nueva Vizcaya	6:00 PM (August 10)
Sta. Clara Monastery	Most Rev. Paciano B. Aniceto, DD Archbishop of San Fernando	Gua-gua, Pampanga	5:00 PM (August 11)
Poor Clare Monastery of the Eucharistic Lord	Most Rev. Diosdado A. Talamayan, DD Archbishop of Tuguegarao	Iguig, Cagayan	10:30 AM (August 11)
St. Peter the Apostles Parish	Concelebrated Mass	Ibajay, Aklan	9:00 AM (August 11)
	Msgr. Adolfo P. Depra	Msgr. Jose M. Padlos	
	Rev. Fr. Mark Randy G. Beluso	Rev. Fr. Charles V. Isagan	
	Rev. Fr. Arnaldo U. Crisostomo	Rev. Fr. Anthony T. Jizmundo	
	Rev. Fr. Jose Tudd S. Belandres	Rev. Fr. Isauro P. David	
	Rev. Fr. Paul Andrew S. Sayon	Rev. Fr. Zaldy B. Jarandin	
	Rev. Fr. Cesar V. Echegaray	Rev. Fr. Allan G. Sta. Maria	
	Rev. Fr. Herminio O. Felipe, Jr.	Rev. Fr. Salvador C. Paid	
	Rev. Fr. John Jerome T. Velarde	Rev. Fr. Ike R. Temporanza	
	Rev. Fr. Jesse T. Guillergan	Rev. Fr. Angelo Raul B. Consemino	
	Rev. Fr. Jude Isidro A. Rebaldo	Rev. Fr. Jose R. Relente	
	Rev. Fr. Victor L. Salido	Rev. Fr. Ramon U. Bansualo	
	Rev. Fr. Marlon F. Rasgo	Rev. Fr. Frederick G. Malacas	
Sto. Nino Seminary	Rev. Fr. Joebert L. Villasis	Numancia, Aklan	6:15 PM (August 11)
Maria Assumpta Seminary	Very Rev. Edwin S. Beley	Cabanatuan City	5:30 PM (August 11)
Dambana ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo	Msgr. Michael E. Balaria	Mabini Homesite, Cabanatuan City	6:00 AM (August 11) 5:30 PM
St. Rose of Lima Parish Church	Msgr. Felix L. Hernandez	Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija	6:00 AM (August 11)
St. Bartholomew Parish Church	Rev. Father Miguel B. Adriosula	San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija	6:00 AM (August 10) 8:00 AM
Carmelite Monastery of Our Lady of Nazareth	Rev. Mo. Leoncia DJ. Sampana, O. Carm	Cabanatuan City	6:30 AM (August 11)
National Shrine of the Divina Pastora	Rev. Father Rene M. Vigilla	Gapan, Nueva Ecija	5:00 PM (August 11)
San Sebastian Basilica	Rev. Father Samson Silloriquez, OAR	Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo	6:30 AM (August 11)
Saint Rita College Chapel	Rev. Father Casiano Cosmilla, OAR	Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo	6:00 AM (August 11)
CBCP Chapel	Rev. Father Oscar Alunday, SVD	Gen. Luna St., Intramuros	6:30 AM (August 11)
Chapel of the Holy Souls Manila Cathedral	Rev. Father Jojo Zerrudo	Intramuros, Manila	6:30 AM (August 11)
Santuario de San Antonio	Rev. Father Antonio Rosales, OFM	Forbes Park, Makati Cit.	6:15 AM (August 11)
Holy Family Chapel	Rev. Father Glenn Orocio	Eastwood City, Libis	12:15 PM (August 11)
St. Andrews Parish	Rev. Father Jaime S. Segun	N. Garcia cor. Kalayaan Ave. Makati City	6:30 AM (August 11)

Offerings/donations to the Sto. Niño Seminary, Numancia, Aklan or the Maria Assumpta Seminary, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija are deeply appreciated. Please contact Pia or Rea at (02) 8438175 or (02) 8138316 of T. Haresco & Associates.

ATTY. EULOGIO M. DE GUZMAN, JR.

'Clarence'

Director, **Philippine National Railways (1972 to 1986)**
Mayor, **Municipality of Bauang, Province of La Union (1988 to 1998)**

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 8, 2003 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife, **Zita Pulido-de Guzman**

His loving children, children-in-law and grandchildren
Bobby & Ruth Jo Abenojar
Kakay, Tanya & Gelli
Mary Ann & Vice Mayor Nardi Valero
JB, Valen & JC
Marivic & Roy Maglanoc
Mariz, Joy, Niña & Clare
Marica & George Erfe
Georgina, Carmela, Rosette & Vincent
Marijo & Jerry Parlan
Jace & Jenina
Mayor Martin & Dr. Menchie Lomboy
Marty, Mavic, Fourth & Clarence
Beng-Beng & Ofelia Ramos
Bea & Xyrelle

His brothers and sisters-in-law
Tomas (†) & Luz Zarate
Romeo (†) & Redempta Sanchez
Antonio & Anamaria Gregorio
Joselito & Petronila Palo

His nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Family Residence at San Fernando City, La Union, from August 8 to August 14 and at the Municipal Hall, Bauang, La Union, from August 15 to August 16.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 16, 2003, at the Bauang Cemetery, immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Saints Peter & Paul Parish Church.

In Loving Memory

On the 7th Death Anniversary of

Ambrosio Padilla

on August 11, 2003

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at 12NN, ALPADI, Antipolo and at the following churches.

Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning	5:15 a.m.
Sta. Cruz Parish	6:30 a.m./12:15 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 p.m.
Mary the Queen Church, Greenhills	7:00 a.m.
St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang	6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila	7:00 a.m./6:00 p.m.
Christ the King, Green Meadows	6:00 p.m.
St. Francis Parish, Shaw Blvd.	6:00 p.m.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo	7:00 a.m.
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Edsa	6:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist, Pinaglabanan San Juan	7:15 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew Parish, Bel Air	6:30 p.m.
Basilica San Martin Tours, Taal	5:30 a.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani, Sta. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:00 a.m.
Benedictine Abbey, Alabang Hills	6:30 p.m.
Sta. Maria Stella Orientis, CRC	6:00 p.m.
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish	9:30 a.m.
St. Peter & Paul Parish	6:00 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice UP	6:00 a.m.
Sta. Maria dela Strada Parish	6:00 a.m.
Ateneo Law School Rochwell Center	6:00 p.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Parish Antipolo	8:00 a.m.

His children request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember him in their prayers

---

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."

In loving memory of

BENJAMIN BONDOC ENCARNACION

May 20, 1922 - August 9, 2003

His loving wife **OFELIA**; his children and children-in-law **EDNA & BOY BORJA, EVELYN & BONG CACES, EDITH & DING BERNABE, ELISA & MIKE PEREZ, EDGARDO & AMY, ELLA, EDMUND, EDWIN, ERNIE & IMEE**; grandchildren & great grandchildren **KEITH, KARL, KAREN, CRAIG, INA, SAGE, YVA, GREER, BRIE, BRYAN (†), BERNARD, BART, BETINA, PAUL, JESSICA, DYAN, FRAN, JETHRO, ANGELO**; friends, family and relatives request prayers for his peaceful repose.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Cremation schedule will be announced later.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Gov't rules on wi-fi use out this week

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is expected to issue the much-awaited rules and regulations on wireless fidelity (wi-fi) technology use in the country this week.

The NTC directive would also effectively lift the existing ban on the use of 2.4-Gigahertz (Ghz) frequency band for wi-fi applications in Metro Manila, Region III and IV, said Edgardo Cabarios, director of common carriers department of the NTC.

Wi-fi is a wireless local area network technology that allows wi-fi-capable computers and handheld devices to connect to the Internet without using wires or cables. It is based on the 802.11 standard set by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc. (IEEE). This body has identified the 2.4-Ghz frequency band the standard radio frequency specified for some wi-fi equipment.

The final draft of the wi-fi rules is scheduled to come out today (Monday), after a jampacked third public hearing held at the NTC last week, Cabarios said.

The official said that the NTC would likely promulgate the new rules by Friday after getting final inputs from parties involved, the official added.

"If there are objections to the final draft of the rules, it would be considered. But I think by Friday the NTC would be ready to promulgate it," Cabarios said.

The new NTC rules also detail guidelines on the licensing and use of outdoor and indoor wi-fi equipment.

During the recent public hearing, Cabarios said that some sectors pushed for the relaxation of certain limitations set for outdoor wi-fi equipment.

Previously, the draft rules limited outdoor equipment coverage to a 2-kilometer radius. However, private organizations pushed for a "no-limit" policy but on the condition that they secure permits or licenses from the NTC, Cabarios said.

For indoor use of wi-fi equipment, the new rule states that the coverage area should not exceed a 400-meter radius.

Suppliers of imported wi-fi equipment are also required to register the equipment at the NTC. This ensures that all wi-fi equipment sold in the local market would comply with technical requirements set by the new NTC rules, Cabarios said.

Cabarios also noted that the new rules might include a "transitory provision" giving existing commercial wi-fi service providers time to register their equipment to avoid being penalized.

The existing ban on the use of the 2.4-Ghz frequency in three regions in the country stemmed from complaints lodged by utility firm Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) in 1998.

This prompted the NTC to ban the use of any radio equipment that runs on the same frequency band in the said regions.

Meralco now uses the 2.4-Ghz frequency band to remotely supervise and control its electrical system in Metro Manila, Region III and IV.

These three regions are also franchise areas of Meralco.

Study says prospects for paid wi-fi service not bright

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

PROSPECTS for "paid-for" wireless fidelity (wi-fi) hotspot services might not be too bright after all, a recent study suggested.

In a report cited by the Wireless World Forum (W2F), an Edge Consult study noted that a rosy picture for commercial wi-fi hotspots might be exaggerated.

The study noted that commercial wi-fi hotspots, or public places which provide wireless Internet access for a fee, have to consider dropping traditional business models.

The study used an imaginary coffee shop as basis for creating various business models for a wi-fi hotspot. The study concluded that under five different wi-fi hotspot business models, the "free access" model proved to have produced more revenues than paid-for models.

The study said that most of the revenues were coming indirectly from sales of coffee and food (incidentals) generated by increased customer traffic lured into a free wi-fi hotspot.

"On average, profits under the free schemes are 533 percent higher than the paid for services," said W2F quoting the study's findings.

The study also said that public wi-fi networks continue to see poor traffic rates despite media hype.

The study, however, noted that there would be a total of 238,000 Bluetooth and wi-fi hotspots worldwide by 2007.

The availability of Bluetooth, a technology that allows wireless connectivity within a 10-meter radius, is seen as a potential service that could bring in more revenues.

The study is based on Edge Consult's "The Hotspot Report," which analyzed the current state of public access wi-fi industry, the disintegration of the value chain, and the pattern for future network deployments.

Gay netizens potential mart for online firms: research

By Joel D. Pinaroc

MEMBERS of the gay and lesbian community using the Internet are a potentially huge market for online companies, according to a recent US study.

The research, titled the 2002/2003 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census or GL Census, an OpusComm Group and Syracuse University research joint effort, said majority of the 9,000 male and female respondents are "affluent, loyal and Internet-savvy" and are potential online buyers. The GL Census study indicated that most of the respondents are likely to notice online ads with gay themes, and are thus potential customers for online companies.

A good percentage of this specific demographic group also apparently has the capacity to splurge online, as 32 percent of the male respondents and 17 percent of the female respondents are earning at least $100,000 a year, the report said.

The study also said that nearly two-thirds of the respondents indicated they would be more likely to purchase from companies that use ads appealing to gay people with a high 82 percent indicating that they would likely buy if the online store is "gay-friendly."

Jeffrey Garber, who heads OpusComm Group Inc. and founder of the GLCensus Partner's study, was quoted as saying that "gay consumers want to advertise to demonstrate that they care about their needs enough to create a separate message."

"Many advertisers assume that just inserting their existing mainstream ad in a gay publication will generate a good response and foster brand loyalty. However, research shows that if advertisers want to hit a home run, they need to craft a specific message that is both compelling and sensitive," Garber further said.

The study also reportedly indicated that this group spends more time on the Internet than an average user. Reports from Internet usage tracker Nielsen//NetRatings said that the average Internet user spends more than 11 hours online per month, while the GLCensus study claims that a majority of the gay and lesbian respondents log an average 25 hours online per week.

Comelec violated . . .

From page B16

Solve, and SK C&C and their joint financial capabilities exceed the requirements of the project. The bids and awards committee correctly ruled that Mega is qualified," Abalos told INQ7.net.

Abalos said the purpose of the financial statements is to show the company's capacity to finance the manufacture and supply of the goods called for in the bid.

"The bidders were evaluated according to liquidity, solvency, and stability; and the net worth of bidders should not be less than 10 percent of the project cost," he said.

On the allegation that the machines failed to attain the 99.995 percent accuracy rating, Abalos said the Department of Science and Technology—which tested the machines for the Comelec—confirmed that the Mega-Pacific machine is 100-percent accurate for its purpose.

"The accuracy rating (specified in the bid) is five mistakes for every 100,000 votes, but (in the elections), the machines will not count that many votes—only 15,000 to 20,000. The DOST secretary is even willing to stake her reputation on their findings," he said.

To this, Lagman asked the Comelec to explain why the bid specifications required that the bidders should show that they have supplied counting machines used in an electoral exercise with at least 20 million voters.

"That requirement alone has eliminated other potential bidders. Why is he (Abalos) now saying that only 15,000 to 20,000 votes would be counted? Why is he contradicting the bid specs? Has he read the bid specs himself?" Lagman said.

The executive also noted that Comelec bid specs required that the counting machines should have an accuracy rating of 99.9995 percent, or one error in every 200,000 read marks (votes) on a ballot.

According to the ITFP petition, both bidders even failed to meet the one-error-in-20,000 mark.

"I also don't agree with the 99.9995 accuracy rating because it is too rigid. Because of this requirement, a lot of bidders opted not to join the bid," Lagman said.

Abalos said the commission called on the DOST to evaluate the machines because the Comelec did not have the capability to do so.

Lagman noted that the DOST reported several occasions where both bidders failed in mandatory technical requirements, therefore this became grounds for declaring the bid as a failure.

Lawyers of the ITFP filed the petition at the Supreme Court Wednesday last week.

Changes in aging . . .

From page B16

lowing unscrupulous individuals to try all tricks in the book to fool unsuspecting recipients. This includes allowing senders to load e-mail with Trojan viruses, pose as a Philippine Senator to enlist caretakers of ill-gotten wealth, or hack into somebody else's computer and send millions of spam promoting the latest weight-loss solution.

Being too trusting, the SMTP needs a total rewrite—an appeal that not only comes from victimized users, but even from authors of the protocol itself who have deplored its underdevelopment.

The biggest issue plaguing the SMTP is its inability to comprehensively identify an e-mail sender's identity. This allows senders to easily mask their identities using forged return addresses to elicit acquiesce among recipients for their fraudulent appeals and even take over their machines to further spread the "evil."

These flaws are considered so severe, that e-mail has been seen as not the nifty killer application that catapulted the popularity of the Internet in the mid-1990s but now as a tool for con artists and cyberterrorists.

According to e-mail experts, enumerating the problems of today's e-mail systems is the easy part. The greatest challenge lies in designing and implementing a new e-mail protocol.

The replacement, pundits claim, would entail extensive industry initiatives and grueling development man-hours.

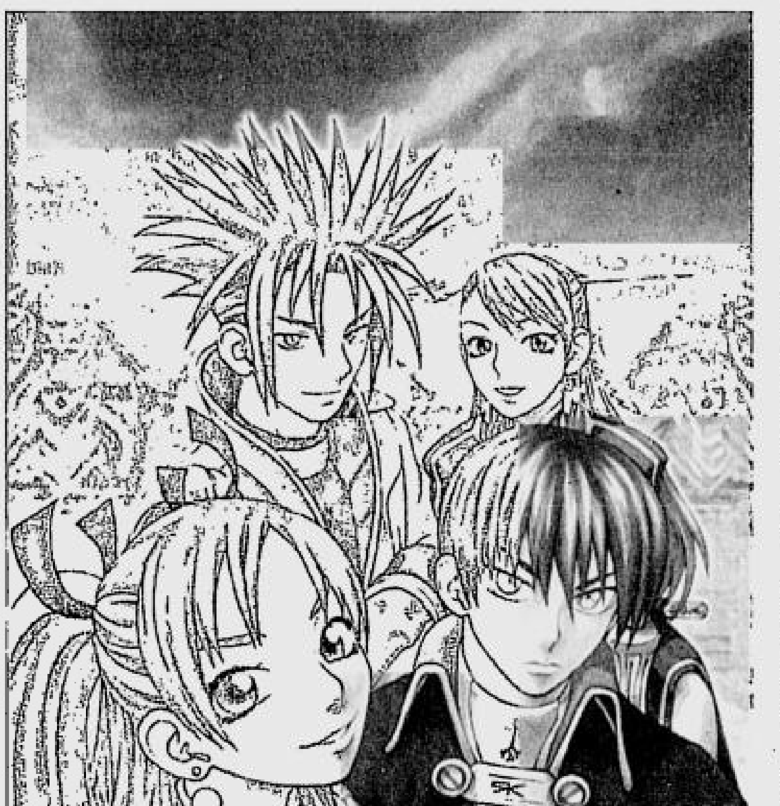
The SMTP's early developers have said that the protocol is flexible enough to accept new enhancements and that the authentication problem can be partially addressed with an existing solution.

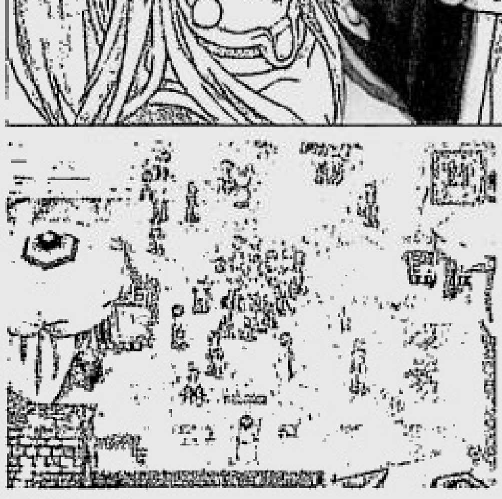
An example is a protocol available on the Internet Engineering Task Force's website that offers authentication by running the SMTP over Secure Sockets Layer and Transport Layer Security (SSL/TLS), leading security protocols on the Internet.

The difficult part of introducing SMTP authentication is the actual verification of the sender's identity, or what experts term as establishing "trust relationships" to back the scheme.

This gets even more complicated when the SMTP system is being designed to authenticate not only individual users but also e-mail servers. These servers could send several millions of spam from various "users" making the task of validation an ominous task.

Online game Ragnarok hits close to 10,000 RP users





THE WORLD of Ragnarok is populated by mages, warriors, archers, thieves and other denizens of fantasy stories, making it an instant hit with online players who can make their characters interact with each other using their PCs.

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

RAGNAROK, a South Korean-born online game, has attracted close to 10,000 concurrent users following its Philippine launch in June, company officials said.

This massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) is an epic adventure inspired by Norse mythology and Japanese anime in which players can choose to play different characters such as a swordsman, thief, mage, merchant, acolyte or archer.

Level Up! is currently the game's exclusive licensee in the Philippines.

According to Level Up! "resident boss" Ben Colayco, Ragnarok has surpassed the local game publisher's expectations, saying the game has an average of 1,000 users a week.

Colayco said that the number of Filipino concurrent users has gone beyond the total number of users in Indonesia.

However, the local version is still being beta tested, thus users currently have free access to the online game.

Level Up! will start charging fees beginning Sept. 1, Colayco said. The executive is hoping not to experience backlash from its loyal users when it begins charging fees.

"We've made it affordable: P50 for eight hours of use, P100 for 20 hours or a week unlimited use, and P350 for one month unlimited," he said.

In the United States, the executive said subscribers to the game have to spend $10 to $15 a month, plus a license fee for the Ragnarok game software.

Ragnarok is license-free in the Philippines, Colayco stressed.

Colayco believes that it has found its "killer game" in Ragnarok, saying that it has been a phenomenal hit among Filipinos.

"People say that the game is a little bit like Diablo, Final Fantasy and Yu-gi-oh (a card game)," the executive said.

The local publisher is now in talks with local Internet service providers and Internet cafés, which are hoping to derive revenues from the online game.

Currently, Level Up! has tie-ups with major players in the local industry, including Netopia, one the biggest chains of Internet cafés in Metro Manila, and telcos such as the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Colayco hoped that local ISPs and Internet cafés would soon realize that content such as Ragnarok can provide compelling reason for subscribers to demand bigger bandwidth and faster Internet access.

"We expect huge improvement in services and bandwidth in local Internet cafés with Ragnarok," he added.

Colayco said that there are about 3,000 Internet cafés in the country. However, many shops have folded up with the recent clamp-down on shops using unlicensed PC games.

RP fastest-growing contact center industry worldwide

THE PHILIPPINE contact center industry is the fastest growing industry in the world, overtaking India and China in the region, a call center research and consulting firm said during an "e-services" forum.

There are more than 200 contact centers employing close to 32,000 Filipinos in the country. This pool of workers fills in 20,000 seats in various call center operations in Metro Manila, Cebu and other regions in the country, said Martin Conboy, CEO of Australian-based research firm callcentres.net.

In a study called "The 2003 Philippine Call Centre Industry Benchmark," the Australian research firm said revenues generated by the Philippine-based operations have reached about $328 million a year.

The study also noted that the compound annual growth of the seats in the local call center industry is at 100 percent, which is the highest in the world, Conboy said.

As of 2003, Conboy noted that China has 38,000 seats but growth is at 41 percent, while India, which has 96,000 seats, is at 65 percent.

The executive said that the Philippines does not necessarily have to compete with China since "China is China."

"The Philippines is still the fastest growing contact center industry in the world since men invented the bottled beer," Conboy said. *Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva*

Color screens, camera phones boost mobile handset sales

DEMAND for colored display and camera phones fueled a surge in sales of new mobile handsets during the second quarter of 2003, a technology and market research firm said.

Based on the study by Allied Business Intelligence Research, the total handset market increased to 107 million units, which translates to a 12-percent increase over the same period last year, and 2-percent sequential increase compared over the last quarter.

Replacement handset shipments accounted for as much as 27 percent of overall handsets shipped, the research firm said.

Over a third of Nokia handset shipments during the period had color screens. South Korea's Samsung also said that 45 percent of its handsets shipped had color displays.

ABI said that the more handsets would sport color displays, and noted that 97 percent of all handset shipments would have color screens by 2008.

Meanwhile, the study noted that SonyEricsson had a "dramatic comeback," as it reported 6.7 million handset shipments. It has bumped off South Korean firm LG Electronics from fifth position.

Nokia, on the other end, continued to dominate the global market with a 38-percent market share in terms of handset shipments.

However, Siemens showed no improvement with shipments at 8.1 million units, the research firm said.

"Motorola, having been slow to respond to the demand for new features, introduced very few newer handsets this year. With no camera embedded handsets, Motorola's shipments were down to 15.8 million units," the ABI study added. *Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva*

InfoTech

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Editor Leo Magno

Comelec violated procurement laws in poll automation, IT groups claim

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva and Veronica Uy, *INQ7.net*

REPRESENTATIVES of the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines (ITFP) claim that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) violated existing procurement laws in the country in the process of computerizing the country's electoral process.

The IT group said Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and the poll body's Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) failed to follow its own requirements when it allowed MegaPacific eSolutions Inc. to participate in the bidding for the P1.3-billion contract for the purchase of automated vote-counting machines.

The ITFP and several individuals filed a temporary restraining order before the Supreme Court, seeking to stop the poll body from implementing its modernization project.

In its petition, the group alleged that the contract is "flawed" since the winning bidder, MegaPacific eSolutions Inc., was incorporated only on Feb. 27, 2003, when the bid specifications required that the bidder submit its financial statements for the past three years.

Abalos and members of the Comelec BAC were cited as respondents in the class suit that accompanied that petition.

"Bayantrade was not allowed by the Department of Budget and Management to bid for a project because its business was only two years old. Bayantrade had to look for a company that had been around for three years to partner with," said Augusto Lagman, former president of the ITFP and now vocal IT professional who is also a member of the National Movement for Free Elections in an interview with INQ7.net.

Lagman reiterated that MegaPacific eSolutions was the lead company in the bid. Based on procurement laws in the country, even the lead company should be eligible to bid.

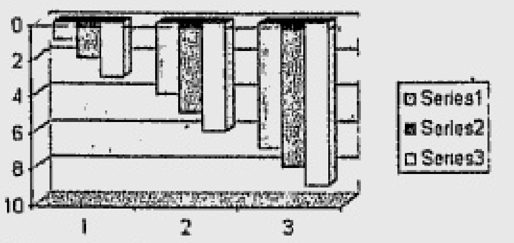
The Comelec BAC awarded the contract to "MegaPacific Consortium," which according to the ITFP petition, is a non-existent firm.

"It was not the consortium that made the bid, it was the corporation. Why should the Comelec then award the contract to the consortium when it was MegaPacific eSolutions that made the bid. (Abalos) is a lawyer—he should know (that this violates procurement laws)," Lagman said.

In a briefing, Abalos defended the P1.3-billion contract, saying that the bid specifications allowed consortiums to bid for the contract.

"The bid specs did not mean that the company should be at least three years old because we allow consortiums. MegaPacific was established in partnership with ePLDT, election.com, We-

COMELEC/B15



Excel elements in reverse

POWERTIPS

By Jerry Liao

DO you want to reverse the order of Excel charts categories and values? Here's how:

1) Type your data on Microsoft Excel and create a chart out if it.

2) Select the axis that contains the items you want to reverse.

3) Choose "Format" then "Selected Axis" from the menu bar.

4) The "Format Axis" dialog box will be displayed, click on the "Scale" tab.

5) Select the "Categories In Reverse Order" or "Values In Reverse Order" check box (depending on which axis you selected).

6) Click on "OK."

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National Computer center chief to quit post, files indefinite leave

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

NATIONAL Computer Center (NCC) director general Ibarra Gonzales has filed for an indefinite leave of absence as a prelude to his resignation from the post, a government official confirmed with INQ7.net.

Fortunato dela Peña, undersecretary for information and communications technology of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has temporarily been named as officer in charge of the computer agency while the agency finds a new replacement.

"His resignation has not yet been accepted. But he has already filed for an indefinite leave," Dela Peña said.

Sources told INQ7.net that Gonzales is leaving for the US.

INQ7.net tried to reach Gonzales but he was unavailable for comment.

Gonzales took over the NCC post on December 2002, replacing Delfin "Jay" Sabido who also left the agency after more than a year of service. Sabido is currently head of the Advance Science and Technology Institute.

Similar to what Sabido did, sources revealed that Gonzales' indefinite leave from the agency would lead to his resignation.

Prior to his appointment to the NCC post, Gonzales worked for the Office of the President. He was project director of the "Eskwela ng Bayan" program of the Office of the President in cooperation with the Department of Education and the National Broadcasting Network.

The NCC is currently an attached agency to the DOST. It would soon be placed under the proposed Information and Communications Technology Commission, which is being pushed by Malacañang.

Changes in aging e-mail protocol sought by experts

By Gerry Plaza

SURPRISINGLY, people are still using the same protocol used in sending e-mail for more than 20 years now.

This protocol, the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP), was designed primarily as a mere messaging solution for early academics before the Internet boom of the mid 1990s and was not overhauled since. Strange, perhaps, considering how the Internet has long left the university labs to now become the salient link to corporate, even industry, survival.

The biggest flaw of the SMTP lies in its inherent "trust" to users—not validating user identity before the e-mail is sent, thereby al-

CHANGES/B15

PLDT LAUNCHES INNOLAB, INKS DEAL WITH ACADEME and GOVERNMENT FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has signed separate agreements with the University of the Philippines and the Advanced Science and Technology Institute involving key research and development projects on Information and Communications Technology.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT President and CEO, said PLDT constantly seeks partnerships with academe and government in projects that can benefit not only the company, academe and government, but also Philippine society in general.

"Research and development in Information & Communications Technology (ICT) is something the private sector, academe and government can work on much more productively and much more efficiently if there is cooperation. We hope the country will reach greater heights in ICT through this partnership," he said.

Under the agreement, PLDT, UP, and ASTI will undertake projects that will include, but not limited to, rural telecommunications, Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6), mobile telecommunications, broadband networking, toll on-line billing system, and wireless communications.

Separate agreements for each project will be drafted to iron out details involving responsibilities, intellectual property rights, etc.

PLDT, for its part, already constructed a laboratory called InnoLab (The PLDT Innovation Laboratory), where experiments can be conducted. The InnoLab, which has been recently inaugurated, will also serve as a showroom for PLDT new generation services under the Business Solutions brand.

Seated L-R Rowena Cristina L. Guevara, PH.D. Chairman & Associate Professor - University of the Philippines (UP) Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Francisco Nemenzon, University of the Philippines (UP) President, Manuel V. Pangilinan, President & CEO - PLDT, Ernesto R. Alberto, SVP - PLDT Corporate Business Group

Standing L-R, Ronald Tufgol, PH.D., UP College of Computer Science Asst. Professor & Chairman, Cedric Angelo Festin, PH.D., UP College of Computer Science Asst. Chairman, Ariel A. Roda, SVP - Business Development Group, Nerissa Ramos, -VP - PLDT Business Solutions

Seated L-R Delfin Jay Sabido, Director - Advance Science & Technology Institute (ASTI), Dr. Estrella Alabastro, Secretary of Department of Science & Technology (DOST), Manuel V. Pangilinan, President & CEO - PLDT, Ernesto R. Alberto, SVP - PLDT Corporate Business Group

Standing, L-R, Juvilyn Castaneda, Planning Officer - ASTI; Denis Villorente, Deputy Director - ASTI; Nerissa S. Ramos, VP - PLDT Business Solutions; Ariel A. Roda, SVP - Business Development Group

Nico Abuscsa, Innolab Launch host/ PLDT Business Solutions Product Manager while explaining the setup of the Innovation Laboratory. Listening are L-R, Kaye Tolome, co-host, Mr. Ernesto R. Alberto - PLDT Corporate Business Group SVP, Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan - PLDT President & CEO and Dr. Estrella Alabastro, Secretary of Department of Science & Technology (DOST)

Department of Trade & Industry (DTI)/ Board of Investment (BOI) Governor Kim Jacinto Henares while delivering her speech during the Innolab launch

L-R Luis Aldo, Division Head - PLDT Sales - Government & International Institutions, Ernesto Alberto SVP - PLDT Corporate Business Group, Luli Arroyo, Presidential daughter, Ariel Roda, SVP - PLDT Business Development Group & Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT President & CEO

L-R Al Ongtao, General Manager - PC Tech, Dung Kitanoff, AVP - PLDT Executive Development & Career Management, Emil Tonchico FVP - PLDT Human Resources Management & Development, Ariel Roda SVP - PLDT Business Development Group, Nerissa Ramos, VP - PLDT Business Solutions, Kathleen Heceta, Deputy Commissioner - NTC, Luis Aldo, Division Head - PLDT Sales/ Government & International Institutions & Luigi Lopa, Division Head - PLDT Sales/ Trading and Financial Institutions

Department of Science & Technology (DOST) Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro & PLDT President & CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan make use of the electric palm device to mark the opening of the PLDT Innolab

UP President Francisco Nemenzo said this partnership will definitely redound to the benefit of the country, and eventually lessen its dependence on foreign technology.

"The beauty of this partnership and of InnoLab is that we will have a melting pot of innovative ideas from PLDT, ASTI, and UP. We recognize that strengthening scientific cooperation is mutually beneficial and will promote, strengthen and modernize science and technology in the Philippines," he said.

Department of Science and Technology Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro also said the government is glad to develop closer ties with the private sector and academe on matters related to ICT.

"ASTI aims to complement the overall endeavor of government in the scientific field through intensive activities in computer and information technologies. That is why we entered into this agreement with PLDT," said Alabastro.

The Advanced Science and Technology Institute is an attached agency of the Department of Science and Technology. ASTI is mandated to conduct scientific research and development in the advanced fields of studies including communications engineering, microelectronics and information technology.

Ernesto R. Alberto, PLDT Corporate Business Group Head, added that the InnoLab hits two birds with one stone because it will also serve as a showroom for PLDT's corporate clients.

"Now it will be easier to conduct customer demonstrations and more cost effective, too. With this showroom, our clients will also be able to see complex and delicate telecommunications equipment at work; no need for setting up somewhere else," said Alberto.

"It is part of PLDT's commitment to clients that we update them on what we have so they can decide on what technologies or services they need," said Nerissa S. Ramos, PLDT Business Solutions Head.

PLDT launches InnoLab

Research and development in PLDT has received a big push toward the limelight through the recent launch of the company's InnoLab, short for Innovation Laboratory. InnoLab will soon become a breeding ground of new innovations that may lead to the next technological revolution.

While it is indeed quite ambitious, PLDT believes that with perseverance, creative thinking, and the help of academe and government, this endeavor becomes easier and much more rewarding in the larger context of Philippine society.

"What we hope to do with this InnoLab is to foster the creativity of PLDT's experts as well as those of our partners in academe and government," said Ernesto R. Alberto, PLDT Corporate Business Group Head.

PLDT's experts will work with students and researchers from the University of the Philippines as well as technology professionals from the Department of Science and Technology through its Advanced Science and Technology Institute.

"Through InnoLab, it is our goal to position PLDT as the leading ICT innovator. It will help us carry on our commitment to the development of new generation telecommunications solutions," said Alberto.

Situated at Mandaluyong City, The PLDT Innovation Laboratory and Learning Center is a five-storey structure, which consists of several training rooms, laboratory, a showroom and a demo room where existing/potential clients can also view and experience hands-on the various PLDT business solutions.

PLDT Head for Business Solutions Nerissa S. Ramos said, "InnoLab will be the incubator where we hatch new ideas to strengthen our ability to innovate in all areas of our business."

"We want the public to know that we are the ideal partner to help develop the country as world-class ICT (Information and Communications Technology) service provider with an IT-enabled workforce," she added.

During the recent launching of the InnoLab, VIP guest from the PLDT group headed by PLDT President Manuel V. Pangilinan, as well as guests from the academe and government attended the affair.

These guests were from various groups such as the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Advanced Science & Technology Institute (ASTI), University of the Philippines (UP), Philippine Association of Colleges & Universities (PACU), Philippine Association of Data Entry Corp. (PADEC), Foundation of Information Technology Education and Development (FIT-ED), Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), Cisco Systems, Inc., Acer Philippines and PC Tech.

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More advice for cash-strapped entrepreneurs

By Myrna R. Co
Contributor, UP ISSI

YOU must have observed that the movement of cash in your business is cyclical. You use cash to produce goods or services which you sell to your customers who pay you cash and which you again use to produce goods or services. This cycle, which goes on and on, is known as the cash flow. It is every businessman's goal to have more money coming in than flowing out as his business goes through cycle after cycle.

Unfortunately, the average small businessman today finds the reverse taking place in his business. More money goes out than in! This is blamed on the poor economy, competition from cheap goods from China, the failed mutiny, etc. But whatever the reason, the businessman need not get himself shot just because of a cash gap. He has various options, which boil down to delaying outflow and improving inflow.

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

Better terms from suppliers.

If you are a typical small businessman, you would define "best terms" in terms of time—the longest or the more extended the payment terms, the better. This will allow you to delay your cash outflow and improve your overall cash flow.

Suppliers who give you credit usually require payment in two weeks to a month. I say usually, not always, because there would be some, not all, who would be willing to extend better terms. Don't assume that suppliers' terms are non-negotiable. So if you're not sure, ask. But be ready to justify your request.

Better terms, however, is unlikely to be extended, unless you have established a good track record with the supplier, in particular and a reputation for credit-worthiness in general. You also stand to have a better chance for better terms if you order in volume or give assurance of continuous orders in the future. You would then be a valuable customer whose patronage suppliers will vie for.

All these seem to leave in the cold a new entrepreneur who has yet to establish a business relationship. If you are one, don't despair. You simply need to pay in cash your first few orders. In months you would have begun to establish the track record you need. Take care, however, not to tarnish the record you have painstakingly built. Remember, it's easier to build from nothing rather than to restore a blemished name.

Supplier terms may also refer to discounts. Some suppliers may be willing to take one to two per cent off your invoice if you pay within a specified period of time, say, within 10 days. This contradicts the rule of deferring cash outflow as long as possible. However, see if it is more advantageous if you paid your bill early to take advantage of the trade discount.

Management of receivables

On the other hand, look at

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Work stress' huge financial toll

NEW YORK—Job stress is a leading cause of illness, depression and work place violence in America today and is increasing, experts say.

It is estimated to cost US industry a staggering $300 billion a year in absenteeism, health costs and programs to help workers manage stress as unemployment rises and companies cut staff in what is euphemistically known as "down-sizing."

Fears of losing jobs as the economy stalls, or not having a personal life as pagers, cellular phones and the Internet keep employees linked to their work 24 hours a day, have Americans complaining of muscular pain or fatigue or even seeking therapy. Surveys show more people are driven to frustration or physical violence by the daily demands they face at work.

"Stress is increasing dramatically," said Dr. Paul Rosch, president of the American Institute of Stress (AIS), which estimates 1 million workers are absent daily due to stress.

Causes range from the demands of competing in the global marketplace, the need to keep up with new equipment and technology and creeping depersonalization in the work place.

"People sit 6 feet apart in little cubicles and never speak with each other except by computer. You never hear a human voice and it's 'press one' or 'press three', it's very frustrating," Rosch told Reuters by telephone from his office in Yonkers, New York.

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work reports that more than half of the 550 million working days lost annually in the United States from absenteeism are stress-related and that one-in-five of all last minute no-shows are due to job stress.

"We estimate it (stress) costs American industry $300 billion a year in terms of diminished productivity, employee turnover and insurance," the AIS's Rosch said.

His institute cites a 2000 Gallup Poll, "Attitudes in the American Workplace," sponsored by The Marlin Co., a North Haven, Connecticut-based work place communications firm.

It found that 80 percent of workers feel stress on the job and nearly half say they need help coping with it. Twenty-five percent have felt like screaming or shouting because of job stress, 14 percent felt like striking a co-worker and 10 percent are concerned about a colleague becoming violent.

According to AIS, an average of 20 workers are murdered each week in the United States, making homicide the second leading cause of work place deaths. *Reuters*

More advice for cash-strapped...

From page B2-1

yourself from the other end of the supplier-buyer relationship. How are you as supplier-creditor? If you are always cash-strapped, it might be that you have let your own billing policies and procedures go to pot. Here are ways—adopted from the SBA Women's Business Center—to a better-manage1d billing system.

Set your billing policies. Before your customers set them for you, you need to set your own billing policies and procedures. Whenever you release your goods to customers without payment, you effectively lend money to them. Be selective who you lend to. Find out if they are creditworthy. Do a credit check. Ask for references and get in touch with these references. Talk to the customers directly. Find out why they switched suppliers. Be cautious and firm and follow your gut instincts about a potential customer.

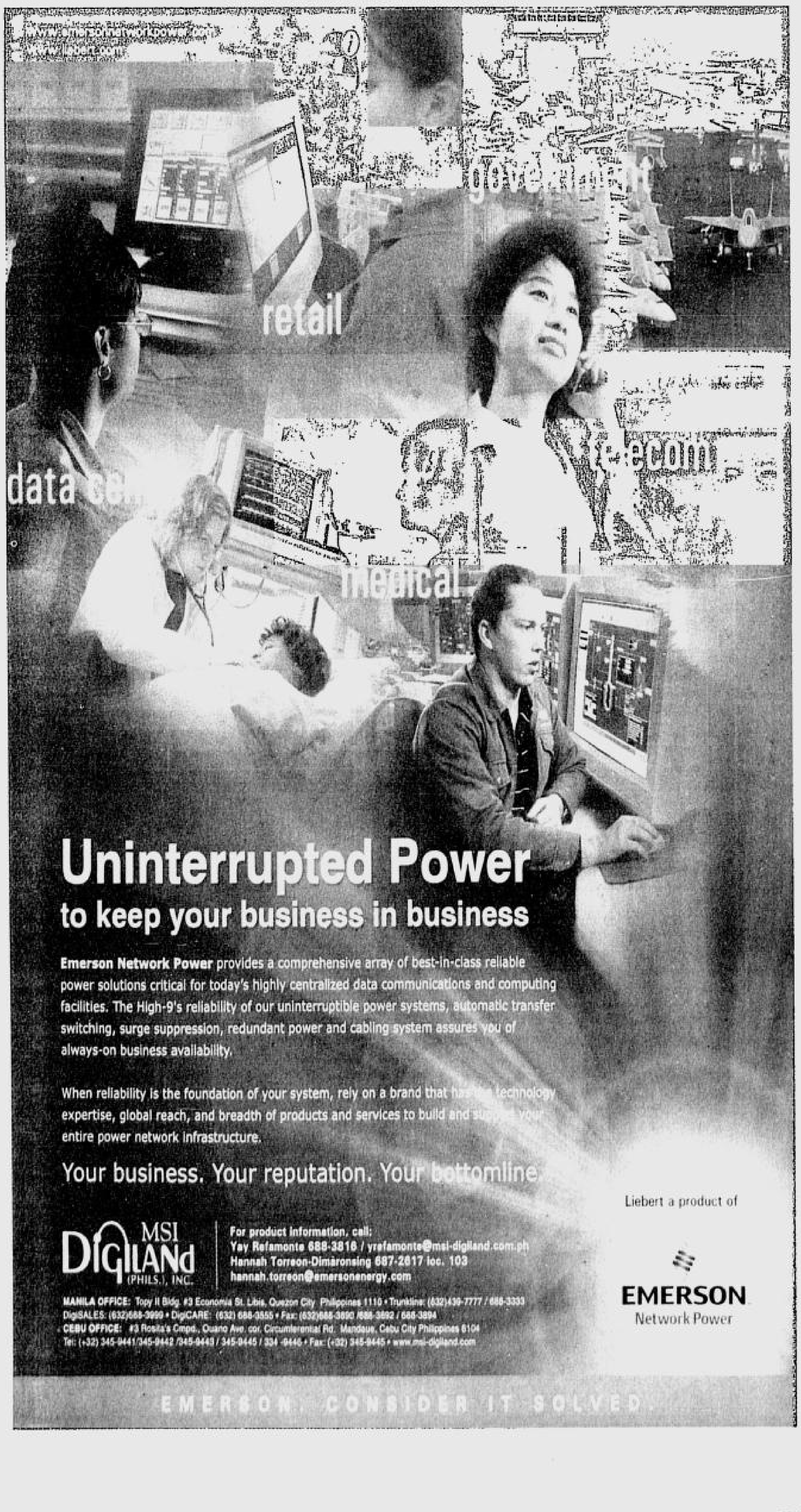
Take the time one day to put down in writing your company's billing policy. It should include: Who will you offer credit to? How much credit will you offer? How will you determine your customers' credit-worthiness? When will your bills go out? In what time frame will you expect payment? How will you follow up if payment is not made?

Send your invoices promptly. Never let your goods leave your premises without an invoice. It may be a bit of a nuisance, but watch as your collection rate improves dramatically. If your customer receives your invoice weeks after they have received your product, they may feel there is no reason to pay quickly. They will think that if you can afford to wait to bill them, you can also afford to wait for payment.

Ask for deposits. If you know a customer to be a late payer, don't hesitate to ask for a deposit or downpayment Alternatively, you can ask customers to sign a payment contract. Knowing they have signed a written agreement would make it harder for them to put off payment.

Follow up unpaid invoices. Follow up unpaid invoices promptly and conscientiously. Remember your customers will size.you up quickly (as undoubtedly you have sized up your own suppliers). Be sure they see you not as a pushover but as a toughie who expects to be paid pronto. If they do, then they are likely to put you on top of the list when prioritizing their payment schedule. When following up, set a payment date in your letter and call promptly on that date if the bill remains unpaid.

Cash flow management will be discussed in "Manage Your Finances" at UP ISSI on Aug. 16 to Sept. 20. *For inquiries, call. 928-7076 to 79, fax 920-6923, or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph.*



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RP engineering education: Expectations vs performance

(Second of three parts)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Teresita U. Quirino

EDCOM Reports that in the Philippine education, there are:

Poor quality

Factors that may determine quality in engineering schools: Engineering schools that charge higher fees offer better opportunities; those that pay higher salaries are able to hire qualified and experienced teachers; those that have selective enrollment; and those that offer review classes.

Poor relevance

Engineering institutions should opt for change to be more relevant.

They should upgrade curriculum programs. For example: Because of ICT advances, more engineering schools offer computer courses in their engineering programs.

They should consult with Industry—what kind of engineering graduates do they need? tie-ups with industry—can they absorb our engineering graduates?

They should offer apprenticeship/on-the-job-training. Engineering students demand not only plant visits but job training. Some schools provide job training/tie-ups with industry but very limited.

The problem is that industry has to think twice about apprenticeship. There are wage and safety issues and the use of their sophisticated equipment. In Tesda, the dual training act has not moved forward because of the same issues.

Programs and standards

They should have better course offerings, more sophisticated and updated equipment. Many engineering schools are well-equipped and meet Technical Panel for Engineering Technology and Architecture (TPETA) standards.

They should have better and qualified teachers—very few are master degree holders to meet ten percent requirement.

The problem is the lack of qualified faculty especially for laboratory subjects. Faculty are board Passers but few have earned MS degrees or aligned degrees. They chose to get an MBA or MPA.

There should be more graduate courses for Engineering Faculty. Few schools in Metro Manila offer master degree programs in engineering:

Public—PLM, TIP, UP;

Private—Adamson University, DLSU, MIT, UST; and Special programs by the CHED and DOST.

Most faculty members take their MS on part time. Once they complete their course they do not serve their institutions even with signed contracts. They are pirated by other schools or they end up in industry.

In a recent speech at the Asian Institute of Management, Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAPSCU) Anniversary, Bro. Andrew Gonzales, sounded off on the problem of faculty for ICT education. "He said 'let's call a spade a spade,' CHED requirements for ten percent master degree faculty holders is not possible. You can count the number of qualified degree holders. There are very few degree holders in information technology. He added that he pays P350 an hour but industry pirates his faculty for P850 an hour.

This is the situation that we all are familiar with. Even in terms of accreditation how can the engineering schools move forward with the dearth of masters degree holders?

Institutions should work for a better overall Average of Engineering Board Passers by having departmental exams for all major subjects; quality teachers in the freshmen class; conduct "mock" board exams; offer review classes; and options for selective students.

Job Placement of Graduates

Do we supply more engineers than what the market can absorb? Is there oversupply or undersupply of engineers?

Data is not available in terms of our engineering graduates, whether they are employed or not. Few engineering schools have an active list of their alumni.

Engineers are still very much in demand as overseas contract workers. Many of our engineers are hired in Asian countries for construction plants and other engineering work. They are hired in Taipei, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia. More are hired in Arab Emirates States that are oil producers. More engineers may be hired in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Language of instruction

Definitely our engineers as English speakers have an advantage over those engineering graduates with poor English skills. Indonesia, China, Pakistan are now cognizant of this and have included English in their educational system. Some engineering schools offer advance English courses for those enrolled in special programs like Microsoft, Sun, Oracle, Cisco, Java, etc.

Access and equity

Access is not a problem because a number of state colleges in the Philippines like PLM, PUP, TUP, UP, etc. offer baccalaureate and graduate engineering courses at very reasonable rates. Besides, tuition fees vary for different levels of students. Those less financially-able can enroll in private schools with lower tuition fees.

Edcom has three relevant recommendations for Engineering Education:

1. Flexibility in the school calendar—offering shorter course programs like trimester/quarterly, off-campus, etc.
2. Alternative learning and delivery systems—distance learning, dual degrees, consortia with other schools, tie-ups with foreign schools, etc.
3. Equivalency and certification system—accreditation of work experience, memorandum of agreements, tie-up with ICT industry, etc.

Expectations vs. performance

Do expectations mean the requirements set by the following?

1. CHED-TPETA (Technical Panel for Engineering Technology and Architecture
2. PRC (Professional Regulation Commission)—Overall Passing Rate
3. Accreditation Standards—Philippine Association of Colleges ad Universities Commission on Audit / Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities (PACUCOA/ PAASCU)
4. ISO Accredited—Quality Assurance/Quality Systems CHED requirements for engineering are usually covered by TPETA. PRC requirements are based on passing average of graduates against the Overall National Average (ONA). The Accreditation standards are set by the PACUCOA / PAASCU agencies which are often higher than CHED standards.

Expectation—means looking "forward to, anticipation." Therefore, the expectations mean engineering courses are expected to have quality, relevance and excellent programs as required by the three agencies to insure placement of graduates.

Performance—means "execution, accomplishment, fulfillment." Performance means compliance and output above expectations.

Considering the above premise, only a few engineering schools can rightfully claim a good performance. These are Centers of Excellence (COE's) and Centers of Development (COD's). Most engineering schools would fall behind in terms of TPETA, PRC and accreditation standards. Many engineering schools are only at Level 1 and 2 and very limited number are at Level 3 in accreditation. This is basically because of the dearth of engineering faculty with master degrees and the high cost of equipment and books.

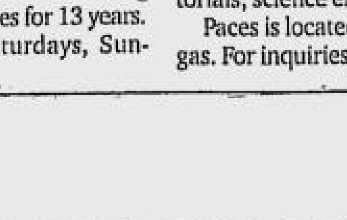
In an article published July 13, 1997, Manila Chronicle, Dr. Leticia Morales reports, "the mediocre performance of the Philippines in the Second International Math and Science Study (SIMSS). She states that the number of engineering graduates in the Philippines produces yearly is far more than what Singapore, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia could generate yearly."

"Yet, the Philippines could but account for only 0.0002 ratio of masters and doctoral degrees compared with Thailand's 0.040 and Singapore's 0.204. At the time of this publication the Philippines was producing 30,000 engineers yearly. But of this figure only one fourth passed the board examinations."

The picture from 1997 to 2003 has not improved. Similar problems presented in the annual Pate conferences from 2000 to 2002 prevail.

(The author is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and the President of the Technological Institute of the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Mandarin classes, anyone?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TO address the needs of its clients, the Philippine Academic Center for Enrichment and Self-actualization (Paces) designs a specific curriculum for professionals, homemakers or college students, whether it is for self-enrichment or for business purposes.

Top Mandarin language experts handle the classes, headed by Jeffrey Liu, a native of mainland China, who has been teaching the language in the Philippines for 13 years.

Classes are held on Saturdays, Sundays, weeknights and by appointment.

Aside from mastering the language with the proper diction and grammar, students are taught how to read and write using the Hanyu Pinyin alphabet.

Other courses available at PACES include English for Foreign Students (adults and children); reading comprehension and creative writing; reading comprehension for kids; math enrichment; tutorials; science enrichment and tutorials.

Paces is located at the AIC Gold Tower in Ortigas. For inquiries, call 633-6919 or 631-3836

MOVEMENTS

Romulo joins Plantersbank

PLANSTERBANK chair and chief executive officer Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting announced the election of Lawyer Ricardo J. Romulo as vice chair of Planters Development Bank shortly after the bank's shareholders meeting held recently. Lawyer Romulo replaces Jose P. Tambunting who continues to serve as a member of the board of directors.

Tambunting describes Romulo's new role as an "added dimension in our thrust to guide the SME sector's role in the expanding business landscape and prepare the sector in its drive towards global competitiveness." Prior to his election as vice chair, Romulo was a member of the board of directors for 10 years.

Ote new PNOC VP

SERGIO A. F. Apostol, chair and president/CEO of PNOC Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) announced the appointment of Leonardo M. Ote as vice president.

Ote will be in charge of the Environmental Management Division, Energy Drilling Division, Marketing & Public Relations Division, and Operations Services Division.

He has been with the PNOC Energy Companies for 27 years and occupied various management positions. Ote is a BS Geology graduate of the University of the Philippines and completed MBA academic requirements from the Ateneo University School of Business.

Makati Shangri-la has new manager

THE MAKATI Shangri-la has appointed Randy Pascua as the hotel's new Health Club Manager.

Pascua is a licensed nutritionist and dietician and has gained valuable management experience from major resort and spa destinations in Cebu.

He began his career in 1996 as an instructor of a high-end fitness club in Makati until he flew to Mactan Island to serve as guest service instructor of a resort until his promotion as one of the resort's duty managers in 2001.

With his current post as Health Club Manager, Pascua will oversee the operations of the hotel gym as well as the pool area, tennis courts and spa.

Philamlife elects directors

PHILAMLIFE Savings Bank announced recently the election of top business executives to its Board of Directors during its annual stockholders' meeting held in June.

Jose L.Cuisia, Jr., former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor and Monetary Board Chairman, was elected anew as the bank's chairman of the Board.

Two new independent directors were likewise elected to the Board: Dr. Roberto F. De Ocampo and Bienvenido A. Tan III. De Ocampo is currently president of AIM.

Other members elected to Philam Bank's Board of Directors are: Edward J. Cooper, 1st vice chair, president & COO, AIG-Consumer Finance Group, Inc. (CFG); Pao Yin Chen, 2nd vice chair, regional executive, AIG-CFG; Rolando C. Tanchanco, president & CEO, Philam Savings Bank; Edgardo A. Grau, chief investment officer, Philamlife; Arleen May S. Guevarra, FVP-Treasury, Philamlife; Lorenza Carandang, VP-Investments, Philamlife; Garry W. Glick, VP-Regional Credit, AIG-CFG; Tong Nguyen, regional chief financial officer, AIG-CFG; and Richard Mendles, regional counsel, Asia, AIG-CFG.

New P&A partner

BENJAMIN Punongbayan, chair & CEO of the public accounting firm P&A, announced recently the appointments of Gregorio Navarro as P&A's managing partner—Operations and Lilian Linsangan as Head of P&A's largest professional services unit, audit and assurance.

Navarro, who has nearly 30 years of professional experience, acquired his accounting degree from the University of the East and obtained the second highest overall rating in the 1976 CPA licensure examinations.

Linsangan, who graduated magna cum laude from the University of the East, obtained the seventh highest overall rating in the CPA Licensure Examinations of 1981. She is the current president of the Institute of Internal Auditors in the Philippines.

P&A, the third-largest public accounting firm in the Philippines, is a member of Grant Thornton International.

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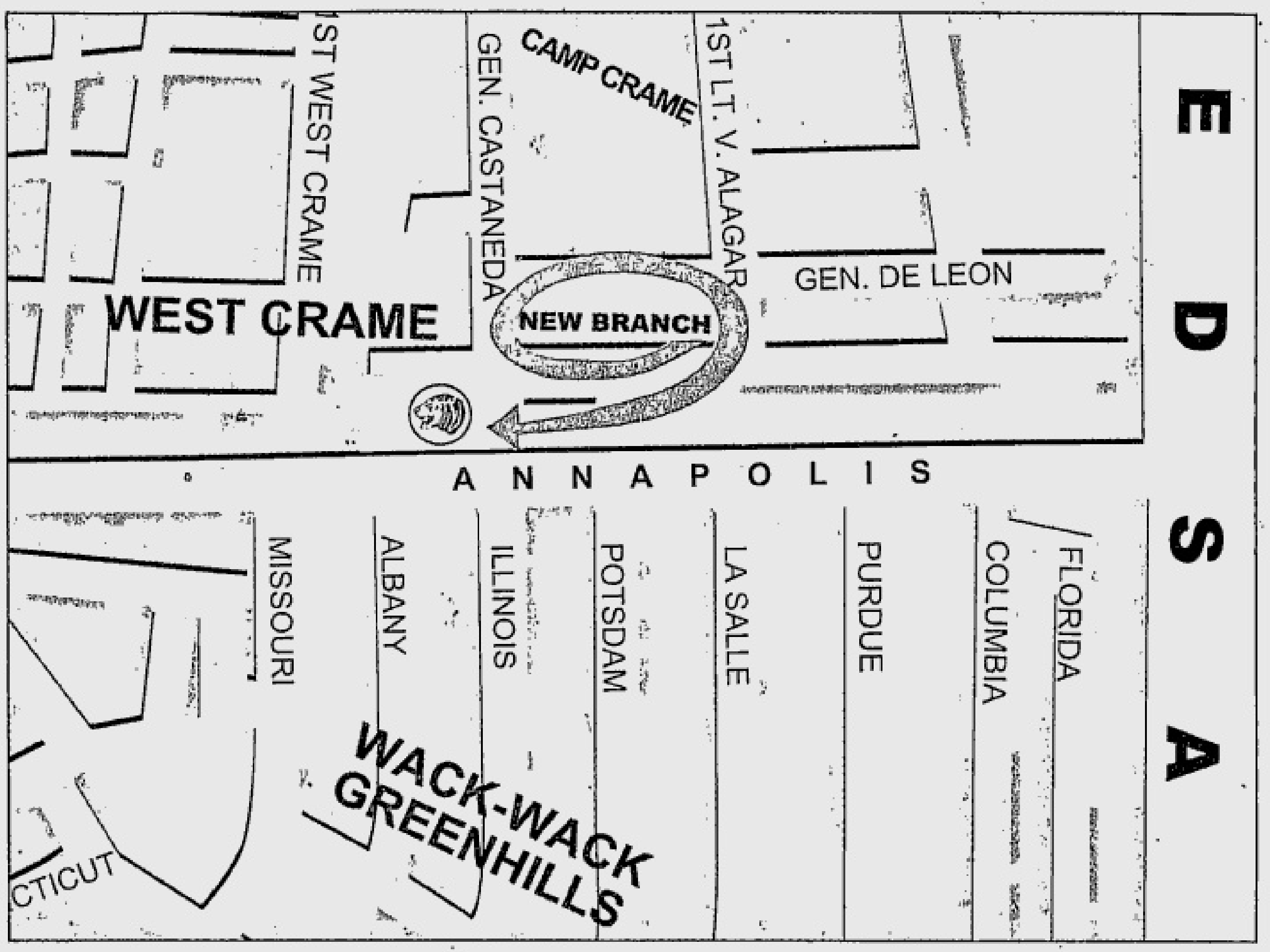

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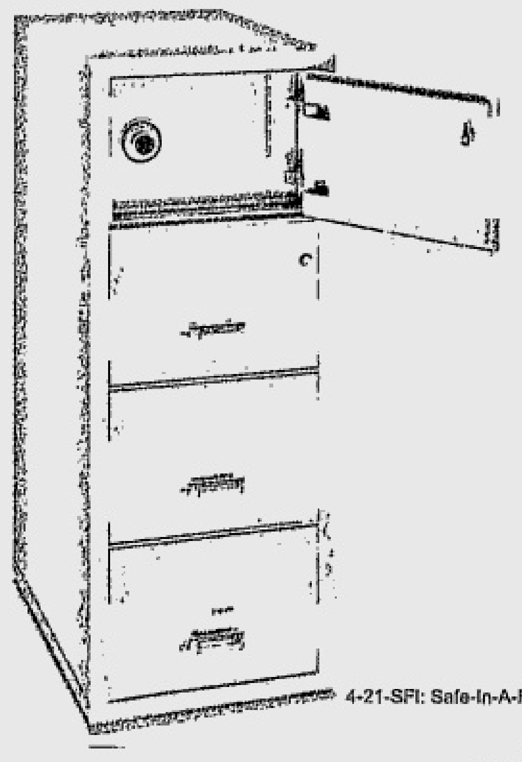

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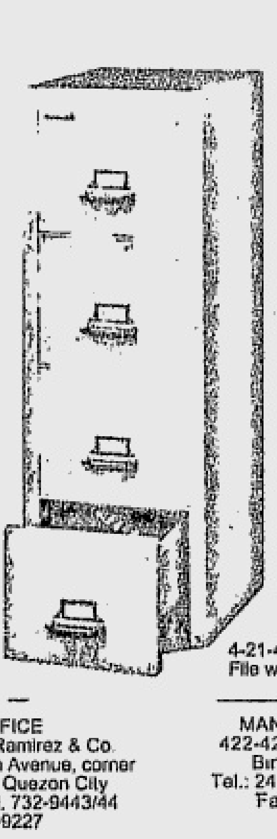
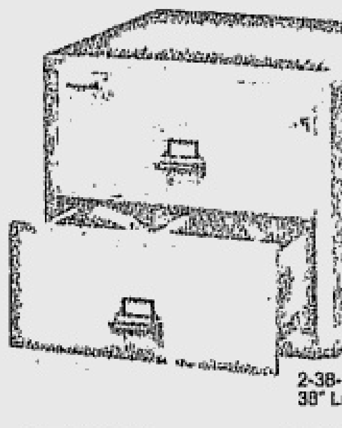
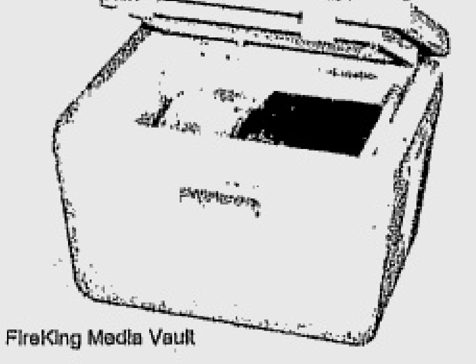


4-21-4C: 4 Drawer Vertical File w/ 4 Individual Lock



2-38-C: Two Drawer 38" Lateral File



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What is the proper way to use a napkin? How about a toothpick?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q. WHAT and how is the proper use of a table napkin? Many of my officemates tuck it into their shirts when eating. They say it is to protect their clothes and that it is not wrong because they see so many people doing it. Also, please tell me the proper way to use a toothpick?

A. There is no proper way to use a toothpick. Toothpick use is probably the biggest etiquette mistake people make. Covering your mouth is nonsense as everyone knows what you are doing anyway. Please do not use a toothpick while at a dinner table. If you must pick your teeth, please do so in the restroom, not in full view of all your dining companions. As an added note, just because some restaurants place toothpicks on the table, that does not give one license to pick his or her teeth at the table.

Dinner napkins, are folded in half and placed on one's lap. Never tuck in your napkin on your shirt collar or your pants. The main function of a napkin is to protect your clothing as well as to clean food debris from the sides of your mouth. As such, the proper way to use it is to dab food stains from the corners of your mouth. Never use the napkin as a lipstick blotter. When done, take it by the center and tuck it into the left hand side of your plate. There is no need to refold a used napkin.

Q. Should I order red wine only with meat? I really like red wine and prefer it over white, but I also prefer fish over meat. Is it incorrect to take red wine with fish?

A. White wine compliments the delicate flavor of fish, while a fuller bodied and stronger flavored red wine would go better with the richer flavors of meat. However, there is no hard fast rule that you cannot take red wine with fish. If you enjoy wine with your food then by all means take red wine with fish.

Q. I was suppose to meet a man who was going to sell me a life insurance plan at a coffee shop. I waited for 40 minutes but he never appeared. I never even got a call on my cell phone until after an hour and a half later when he called to ask why I wasn't there. I was so angry that I didn't bother to talk to him anymore. Now, I am wondering if I was correct.

A. You are the customer in this business transaction and the sales associate should have at least called you on your cell phone to inform you that he would be late. That is common courtesy that is given to anyone with whom you have an appointment. Calling you an hour and a half after the scheduled meeting time is unacceptable behavior and most certainly a breach of etiquette. What he ought to have done was to write you or call you with apologies as opposed to asking you why you were not there after he was an hour and half late. If you were the sales associate waiting for a customer to arrive, I would suggest that in a situation, since you are waiting for a customer, to wait a little longer or to take the initiative of calling your customer to see if he is still arriving or not.

Feedback at etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Louie C. Camino

ABS-CBN appeal on Mel-Jay case junked

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE COURT of Appeals last Aug. 6 denied the plea of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. to reverse the decision of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on the civil cases filed by the network against its former news anchors Mel Tiangco and Jay Sonza and its rival channel GMA 7.

In an 11-page decision signed by Associate Justice Mario L Guariña III, Presiding Justice Cancio C. Garcia and Associate Justice Martin S. Villarama Jr., the CA affirmed the 1998 ruling of the Quezon City RTC, which dismissed the civil cases the network filed against Tiangco and Sonza, according to a GMA 7 statement.

ABS-CBN had charged Tiangco with violating the network's policy against endorsing products. It also charged her and Sonza with breach of talent agreement with the network.

The CA also affirmed the Quezon City RTC's decision to dismiss the civil case that ABS-CBN had filed in 1996 against GMA 7 for "interference" with ABS-CBN's agreement with Tiangco and Sonza. The CA agreed with the Quezon City RTC decision that ABS-CBN committed an "act of discrimination" against Tiangco when it suspended her for three months for signing a contract to endorse a brand of detergent.

"It's been the right decision from the start," GMA 7 assistant vice president Dick Perez said of the court's dismissal of the ABS-CBN cases. "There was no breach of contract whatsoever."

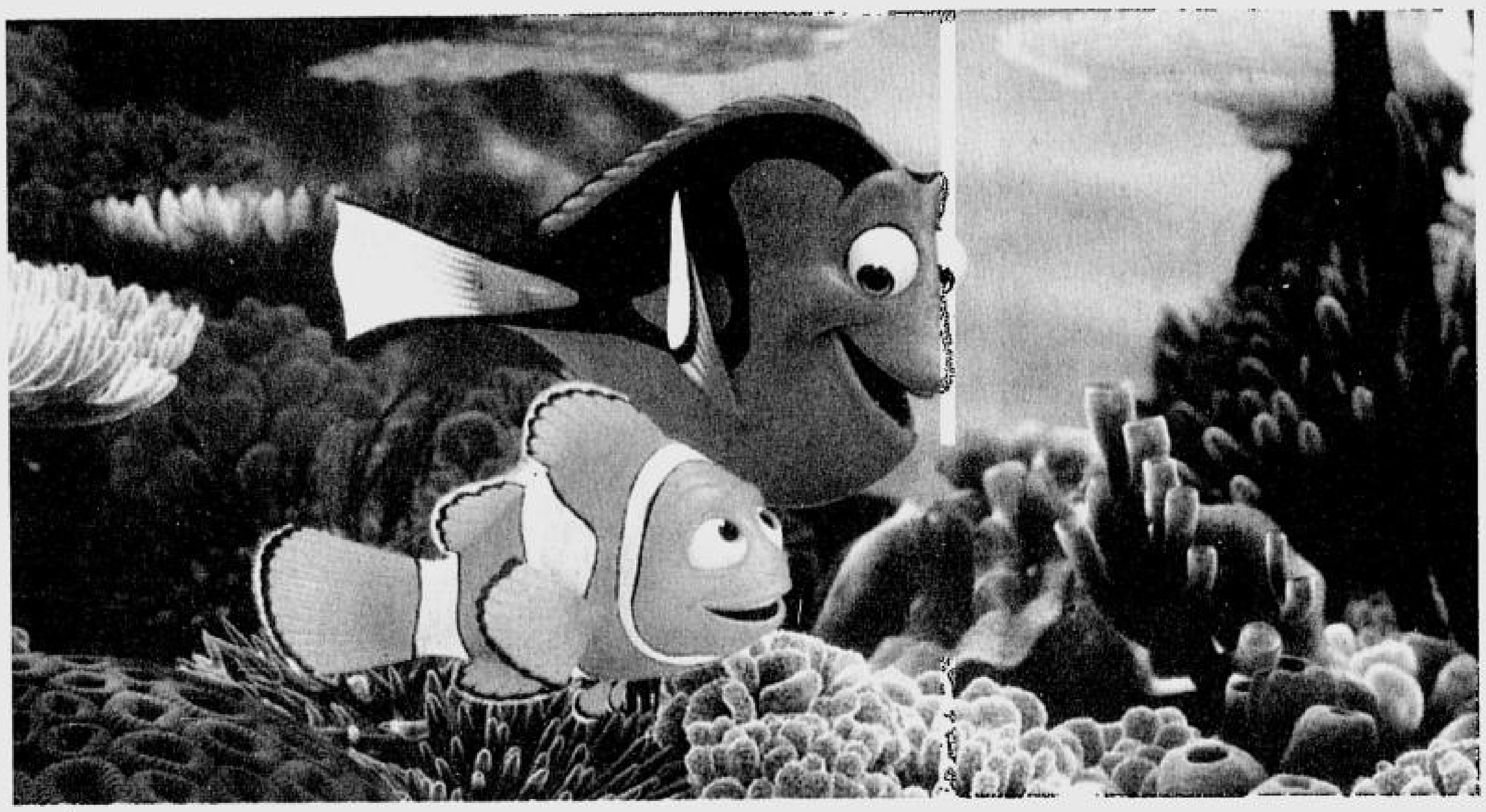
ABS-CBN vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations Maloli Manalastas said the network has not received a copy of the decision as of Saturday afternoon and so could not comment.

In 1999, the National Labor Relations Commission ruled that ABS-CBN's suspension of Tiangco in January 1996 was "unlawful, discriminatory and arbitrary." The NLRC ordered the network to pay Tiangco P15 million in damages.

ABS-CBN argued in its appeal that Tiangco violated the network's guideline that on-cam, news and public affairs staff members were not allowed to make product endorsements.

Tiangco's lawyers argued that her appearance in the commercial was not covered by the policy, since negotiations for the commercial had been done before the

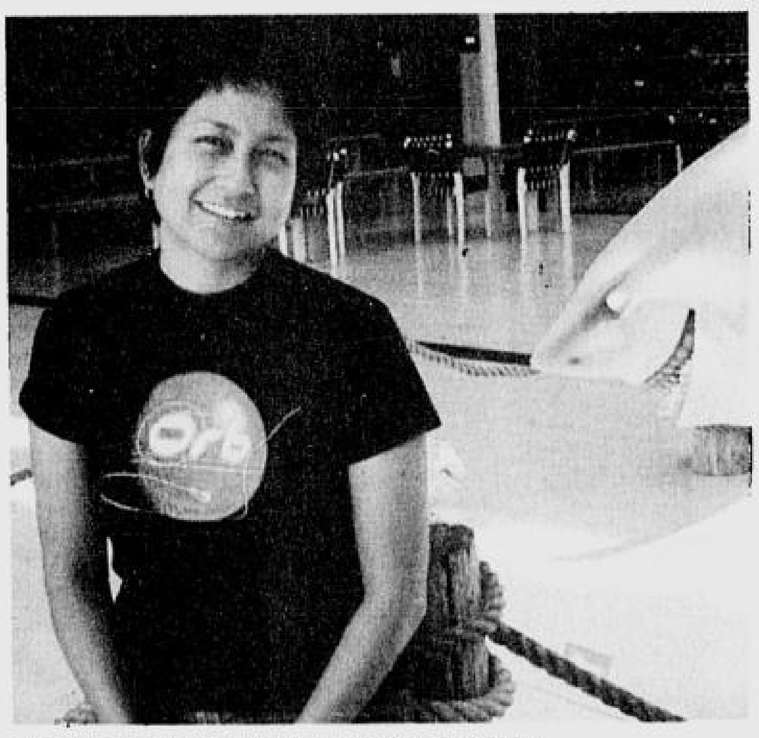
ABS-CBN/C7



BOHOL of Catbalogan still works with paper and pencil.

Finding the Pinoys behind 'Nemo'

Animation artists Nelson Bohol and Gini Cruz bring Filipino creativity to the Pixar hit 'Finding Nemo'



CRUZ, born in Pasay, started in Guam advertising

By Ruel S. De Vera

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

LOOK closely into that dentist's aquarium, right where the little clownfish Nemo is resting. Yes, that is a *bahay-kubo*. That little touch is only one of the different contributions to the Disney/Pixar film "Finding Nemo" courtesy of two Filipino artists involved with the production. It may be set in Australia's Great Barrier Reef, but there's a lot of the Philippines in there, thanks to Nelson Bohol and Gini Cruz.

Bohol, 41, is one of the movie's main background designers.

"I provide the environment, props, anything they need," says Bohol on the phone. Bohol, born in Catbalogan, had always liked drawing since he was little. After graduating with a degree in architecture from the Manuel L. Quezon University in 1985, Bohol went to work for Burbank Animation in Makati, cutting his teeth on Saturday morning cartoon shows.

Proud moments

Bohol fell in love with the possibilities of this new industry. Bohol and four other ani-

FINDING/C3

Bernadette Allyson tries on a new profession

/C2

CRUZ

Almost everything about John Lloyd Cruz

/C4

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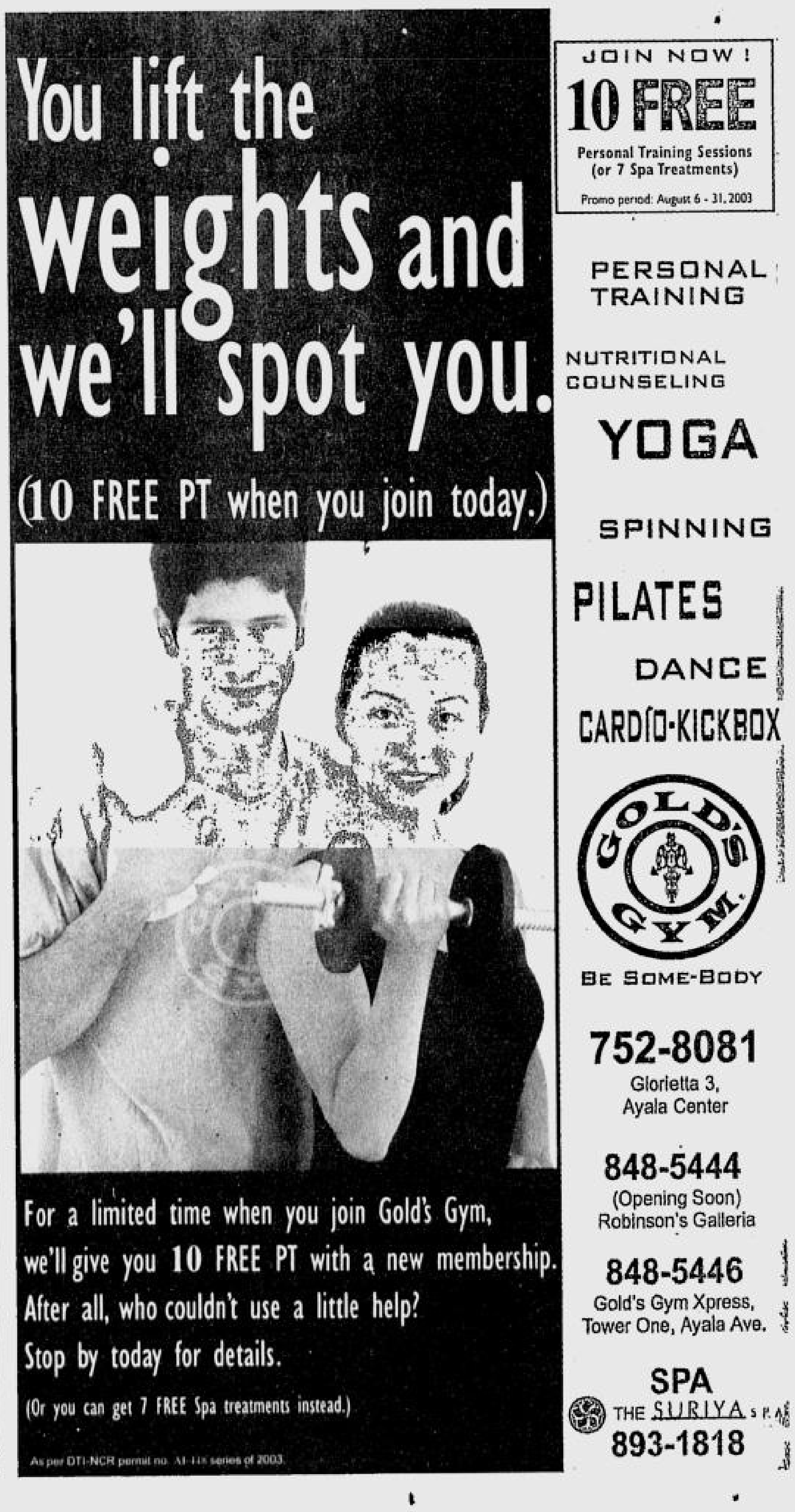

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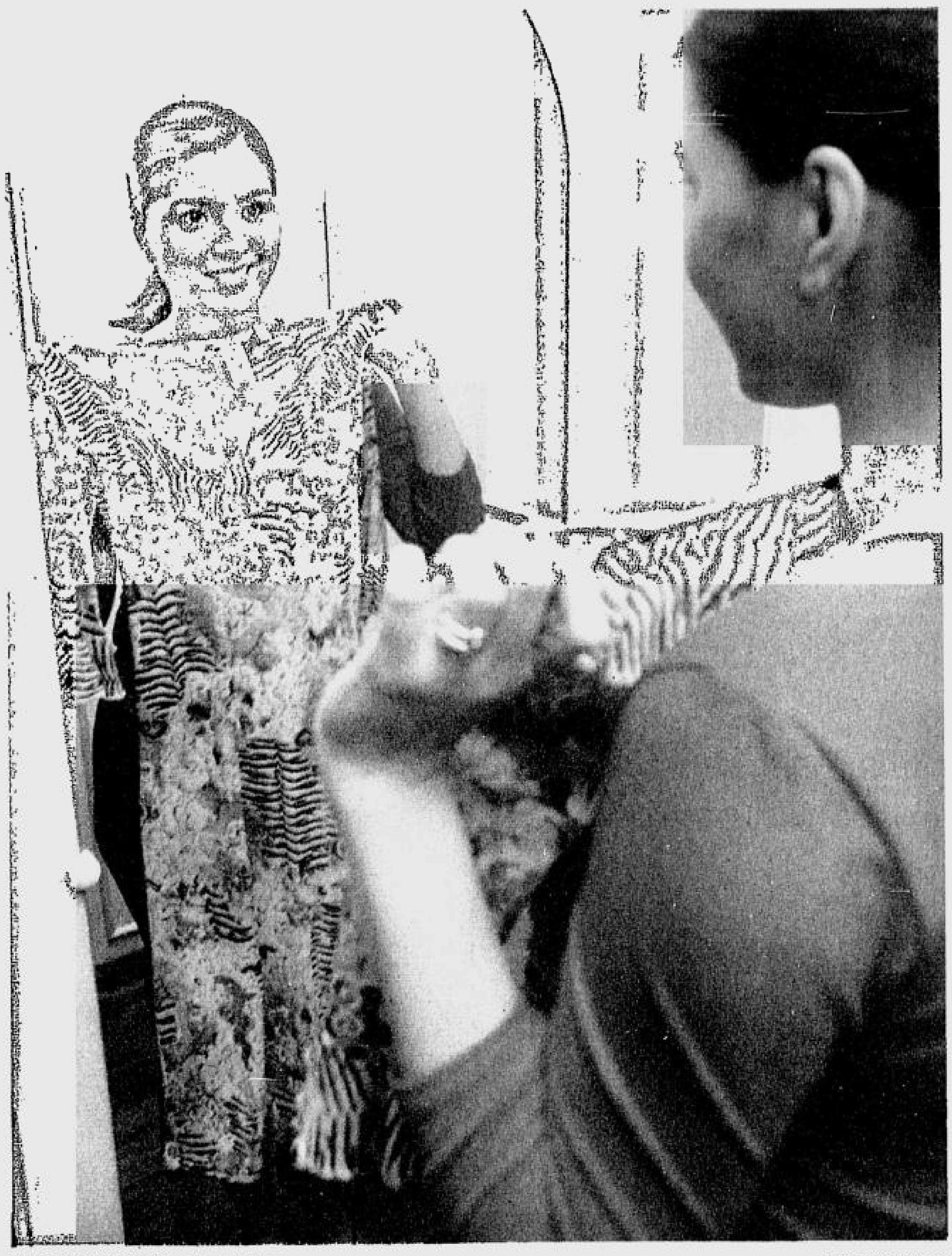


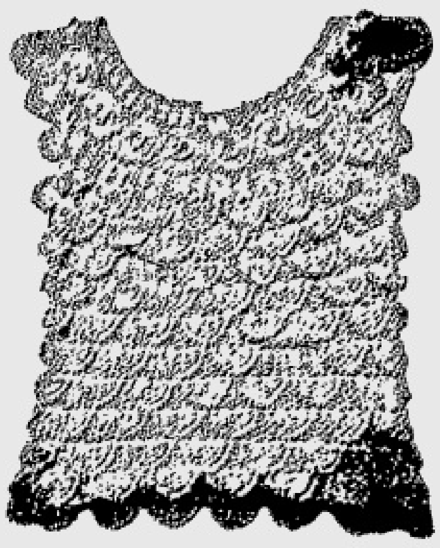
THE FERNANDO Carillo sundress

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

CHINESE AND CHEAP, these shirts were bought in Davao for P300 each

UNUSED but undiscarded

Bernadette tries on a new profession



UNIQUE brown embroidered blouse

SLIPPERS eight months old

By Marinel R. Cruz

OUT OF THE CLOSET

NEWS anchor Bernadette Allyson likens her show biz-to-broadcasting crossover to moving out of her parents' house and into a townhouse, which she now shares with husband Gary Estrada and their one-year-old baby.

"Both moves required a lot of adjustments," says Bernadette during INQUIRER Entertainment's visit at their three-story home in Cubao, Quezon City.

Bernadette was a regular host on the Sunday noon show "SOP" on GMA 7 when she took time off from TV to marry Gary in 2001. Two years after giving birth to daughter Garielle Bernice, or Icee, Bernadette reappeared on TV as a news anchor on the early morning tele-magazine program "Tele-aga Tabloid sa Umaga" on NBN 4, with co-anchor Chino Trinidad.

"Now, I'm not acting anymore," she says. "There are no scripts, no take-twos. I had to learn how to cover my mistakes."

She admits she is still adjusting to her new job because she has no background in broadcasting. She graduated with a degree in psychology from the De La Salle University on Taft Avenue. "It's much like learning how to live away from my parents and live with Gary," she says.

She says Gary is very neat and organized when it comes to arranging his own things. "He wants everything in place," she says. "He's close to being obsessive-compulsive."

Although she has always been orderly with her own things, Bernadette says she became even more meticulous because of Gary. Now she arranges her clothes according to style and color and hangs them using only white hangers. "Gary uses only black hangers," she says. "When I tried using only white ones, I understood why he's doing it. *Ang ganda tingnan ng loob ng* closet *ko*."

Bernadette has gone as far as taking pictures of her shoes and pasting the pictures on the shoe boxes. She also plans to have custom-made shoe boxes so that they will all be red.

Her preference in clothes also changed when she married Gary. "I used to buy trendy stuff that was really expensive," she recalls. "Then I realized that when you go for classic pieces and plain-colored ones, they don't have to be branded."

JACKETS for feeling like a star

MORGAN (left) and Mango for a slimming look

Handbags. "This Louis Vuitton is memorable because I really, really saved up for it. I like its round shape and beige color.

"I bought this one from Aranaz, a Filipino exporter who designs bags for Kate Spade and Ferragamo. I got this for only P1,300, but if you buy this from Kate Spade, it would be a lot more expensive. This bag was said to be used by Jennifer Aniston in one of the episodes of 'Friends.'

"I also got this beaded bag from Aranaz. I used to pair it with an all-black get-up. *Nasira na nga ito eh*."

Knapsack. "I use this red YSL bag on ordinary days. Red is my favorite color. I use this bag even when I'm not wearing anything red."

Dresses. "I will never give away this floral sun dress because it was what I wore when I interviewed Fernando Carillo when he came to Manila in 2000. He's my all-time crush.

"I love this black dress from Mango. It makes me look thin, as thin as Popeye's Olive Oyl."

" This pink Morgan sundress is perfect for summer."

Evening gown. "This is a favorite because I received good reviews from fashion critics when I wore it during the Metro Manila Film Festival last December. Pepsi Herrera designed this. *Walang nang-okray sa akin.*"

Accessories. "I've been making my own accessories for three months now. My mom buys beads for me in Quiapo, but I also buy some from a Muslim vendor in Greenhills."

Long-sleeved blouse. "I consider this floral blouse a good buy. I bought this at a 50-percent discount. Still expensive, but it's worth it because it's unique."

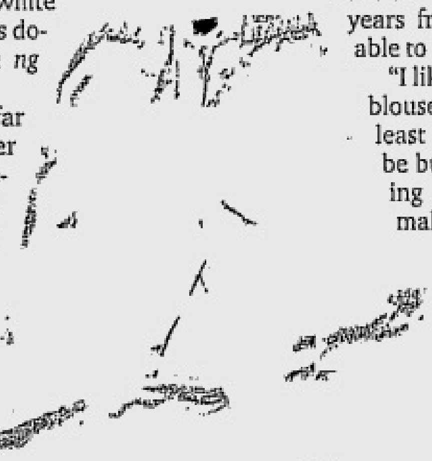
Polo shirts. "There was a stage in my life when I became so into Ralph Lauren polos. I bought yellow, green and pink polos in the same style. I've had them for five years now. What's good about them is that I still get to wear them up to now."

Suits. "I bought this suit from Theme Five years ago, at a 50-percent discount. One of the buttons was cracked. Shops usually attach extra buttons to the tags of suits. I simply sewed on the extra one and it looked perfect."

Blouses. "I don't use this sequined blouse anymore but I'll never throw it away. It reminds me of the days when I was still dancing in 'SOP.' You'll never know, 10 to 15 years from now, I might still be able to use it.

"I like this embroidered brown blouse because it's unique. At least it's safe to say that I won't be bumping into anyone wearing the same thing at the malls.

"I got these Chinese shirts in Davao for P300 each. I consider them good buys because they're cheap and I could pair them with slacks or jeans and my red boots."



EVER-RELIABLE khaki

Pants. "I've worn this Morgan black slacks about a hundred times. It has perfect fit. It makes me look slim. It's hipster but not very low.

"My ever reliable pair of khaki pants is from U2. I use it with almost any top. It's very versatile. When I don't know what to wear, I can count on this pair."

> 'Now, I'm not acting anymore,' she says of her broadcasting job. 'There are no scripts, no take-twos. I had to learn how to cover my mistakes.'

Jeans. "I've worn this pair of jeans from Mango about a thousand times. It used to be a lot darker when I bought it. It has perfect fit, too. It's kind of long to be worn with flat shoes so I fold it and staple the fabric together. I always bring this with me whenever I travel."

Peasant skirt. "This is my most recent buy. I got this for only P500. The fabric makes me look slim."

Suede jacket. "My sister-in-law bought this in the States. She gave it to me during the time 'America's Sweethearts' was shown here. Catherine Zeta-Jones and Julia Roberts both wear leather jackets in the movie. Feeling *ko, ako sila.*"

Sleepwear. "I wear this Natori nightie only whenever I'm feeling glamorous. I have two of the same style."

"I really prefer sleeping in my All Boxed Up shirt and pajamas. I use them as soon as they've been washed."

Sandals. "I had this pair specially made. This has got to be the highest heels I've got, 5 1/2 inches. When I wore this at the film fest, 5-foot-11 *na ako. Masakit!* That's why I brought an extra pair to the awards night."

"I haven't worn these Nine West sandals but they're already a favorite. Gary bought them for me during his most recent trip to the States. He saved a lot for this pair. He wasn't sure I'd like it. I loved it."

Rubber shoes. "All of them were picked by Gary. I have no idea how to pick nice rubber shoes because I don't know the difference between *baduy* ones and good ones."

Boots. "I bought this high-heeled pair in Hong Kong. I like the design. It's not too pointed."

Slippers. "My house slippers were bought at Tickles eight months ago. I like their color, fuschia and purple."

BAG IT (from left): YSL, beads and the Jennifer Aniston bag, the last two by a Filipino designer for Ferragamo

DID YOU KNOW...

Tuan Chen Fong, one of the lead actors of the chinovela "My MVP Valentine" on GMA 7, is in real life a basketball player. He came to Manila last Aug. 6, together with his Taiwanese basketball teammates, for an exhibition game against Filipino players. The 6-foot-tall Tuan displays his basketball skills in the hit chinovela, where he plays a basketball heartthrob and the love interest of lead actress Xiao Xi. He is nicknamed the "basketball genie" because of his tricks and moves on the hardcourt. He was named star basketball player in high school and was given the best newcomer and most improved player award in National Professionals in 1997.

Nora Aunor has proven her worth many times over

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE EXCLUSION of Nora Aunor's new starrer from the 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival has incensed her fans, and with reason. Nora and the Metro filmfest have had a memorable linkage since way back, so her comeback movie project's being rejected as an official entry in this year's festival smacks of insensitivity to the resonances of pop and cinematic "history."

An additional factor in the eyes of many is the fact that Nora, despite her career's current travails, is still regarded as the country's signature superstar.

The totems of popular mythic acclamation are all there. She was a child of the masses, small and dark as the millions who adored and empathized with her. Her humble origins were transformed by her luminous singing and acting talent, the quality and power of which surprised even herself.

All by her lonesome, she radically changed the colonial-minded attitudes and practices that limited the local movie industry's genuine artistry and persuasive force for many decades. Above all, she gave the country's moviegoing masses a better estimation of themselves.

Thus, her exclusion from the filmfest that she helped make popular has shocked some of her loyal fans into mounting a protest action.

Of course, some people scoffingly point out that Nora's protesting fans are few in number, so why pay any attention to their complaint? They could simply be loyal stragglers who are still living in the vestiges of past glory, unwilling to accept the fact that Nora is no longer a bankable star today.

Well, let's see if their protesting ranks will increase in numbers in the coming weeks. If they do, festival organizers may have to contend with a coup du cinema partly of their own making.

To us observers, however, this latest teapot tempest is an abstraction because we don't know if Nora's project scores high on point of quality. Perhaps director Elwood Perez can lend us a copy of the script for us to determine that?

If it turns out to be outstanding film material, then Nora's movie should be supported as a filmfest entry, even if she's no longer the crowd-drawer she used to be.

Even that point is debatable, however. Some months ago, the show biz scene's usual naysayers predicted that Nora's "ill-advised" 50th birthday anniversary concert at Araneta Coliseum would be an embarrassing flop—but Nora performed that night to a capacity crowd.

More significantly, she gave an outstanding performance, which debunked once and for all the nasty view that, she was a has-been singing star. For the first time in a long while, she was in good voice, and her spirits were high enough to raise the coliseum's roof—well, figuratively speaking!

So, don't count the "old" girl out just yet. Let's see if more people insist on her being honored with an official festival entry, and not just for old times' sake. Stars and superstars may come and go, but, Nora Aunor has proven her worth many times over, and is here to stay.

Action Center

FOR the first six months of 2003 alone, the Imbestigador Action Center has helped solve the problems of more than 4,500 people who called, wrote or visited its office. It guides people

NORA/ C7

Finding . . .

From page C1

mation artists formed their own company in 1991. Shortly after, Bohol got to work on early episodes of the now ubiquitous Nickelodeon show "Rugrats." When the show received an Emmy, the Filipino animators even received a certificate attesting to the Emmy win. While that was a proud moment for Bohol, there was more awaiting him.

In 1996, 20th Century Fox's animation division held an exam for local artists, intent on finding talent they could bring to the States. Thinking he had nothing to lose, Bohol took the exams, and wound up among the 50 artists—there were over 150 applicants—accepted by Fox Animation.

Working out of Phoenix, Arizona, Bohol got to work on such Fox animated flicks as "Anastascia" and "Titan A.E." In 2000, he moved to Pixar Animation Studio, where he designed environments and props for a movie that took three years to finish—"Finding Nemo," the latest Disney/Pixar collaboration.

Like Mt. Mayon

Bohol explains that he is still very much into the traditional aspects of animation. "*Lapis at papel pa rin* (still pencil and paper for me)," he laughs, "I don't know much about computers."

Still very fond of his homeland, Bohol applied some personal touches to the aquarium tank in the dentist's office. "The aquarium is 100 percent mine," he says proudly. First, he was responsible for the *bahay-kubo*. Next, he used Mt. Mayon as an inspiration for the miniature volcano inside the aquarium, Mt. Wanahakalugi: "But I couldn't make it as perfect as the real Mayon."

Lastly, he added a very personal touch. "In the aquarium, there are three tiki heads. They're actually caricatures of three artists who worked on the movie." The one to the right resembles another Filipino-blooded artist, Ricky Nieva, while another the one on the left is of a Korean-American colleague.

"The one in the middle, that's me," laughs Bohol, "complete with *bigote* and *nunal* (mustache and mole)."

Now residing in the East Bay with his wife and four kids, Bohol is ecstatic about his time working with Disney and Pixar. "This is it! This is the best place to work, my dream from when I started." Citing Marikina as his hometown, Bohol loves basketball and misses the "*samahan*" (closeness) among Filipinos and the food—he even hopes to visit soon. Yet he never forgets how lucky he's been. "Oh my God, I'm so blessed."

Advertising start

Animator Virginia "Gini" Cruz's path to Pixar is not too different even if her role differs from Bohol's. Cruz was born in Pasay City but left the country when she was three as her parents migrated to Guam. "My late father wanted me to study here because he said the education was good," Cruz recalls.

Originally dragged home "kicking and screaming," she found out she enjoyed herself here, studying at St. Scholastica's College Manila for high school and taking up fine arts at the University of Santo Tomas, majoring in advertising. After graduating in 1987, she returned to Guam, where she worked in advertising, but her artistic sense was pulling her in a different direction.

She studied computer art at New York's School of Visual Art, putting together a reel of animation for her thesis. She sent it out to different companies, but when Pixar called in 1996, Cruz knew immediately where she wanted to go. "I really, really wanted to work with them."

Working with Dory

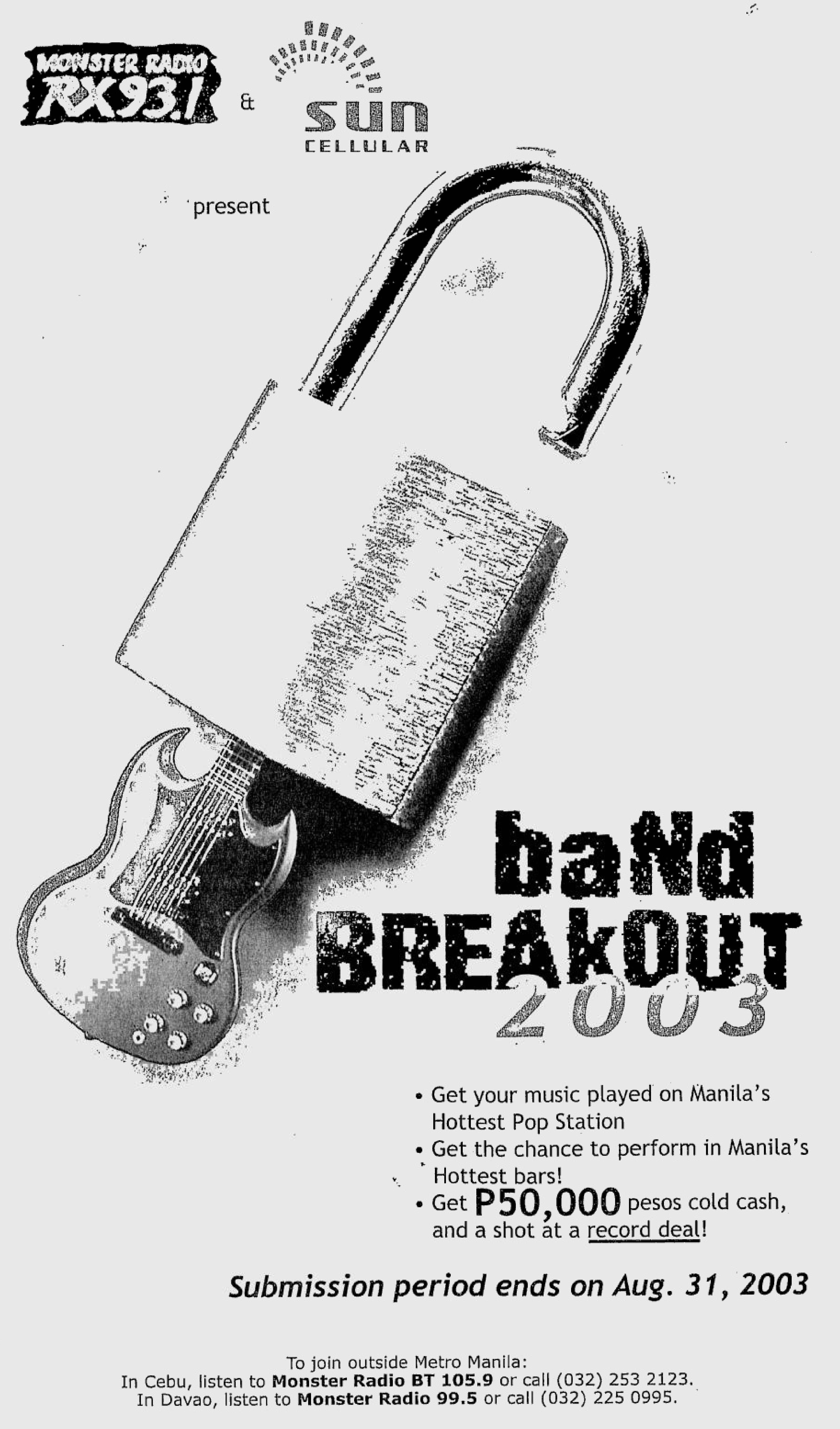
In some capacity or other, Cruz got to work on "Toy Story 2," "A Bug's Life" and "Monsters, Inc." But her biggest contribution so far is her involvement with "Nemo," as she got to animate Dory, the forgetful bluefish voiced by Ellen DeGeneres. It was, after all, her job to look at the character designs, listen to the recorded voice, and make sure that Dory said what she was supposed to.

"I loved working on Dory," Cruz enthuses. "It really appeals to me, the idea of this fish with short term memory loss. Ellen DeGeneres was amazing. She has such a rich array of emotions in her voice."

Cruz also enjoyed working briefly on the cowgirl Jessie from "Toy Story 2."

Unlike Bohol, Cruz works primarily with computers but adds wryly, "I'm the one

FINDING/ C7



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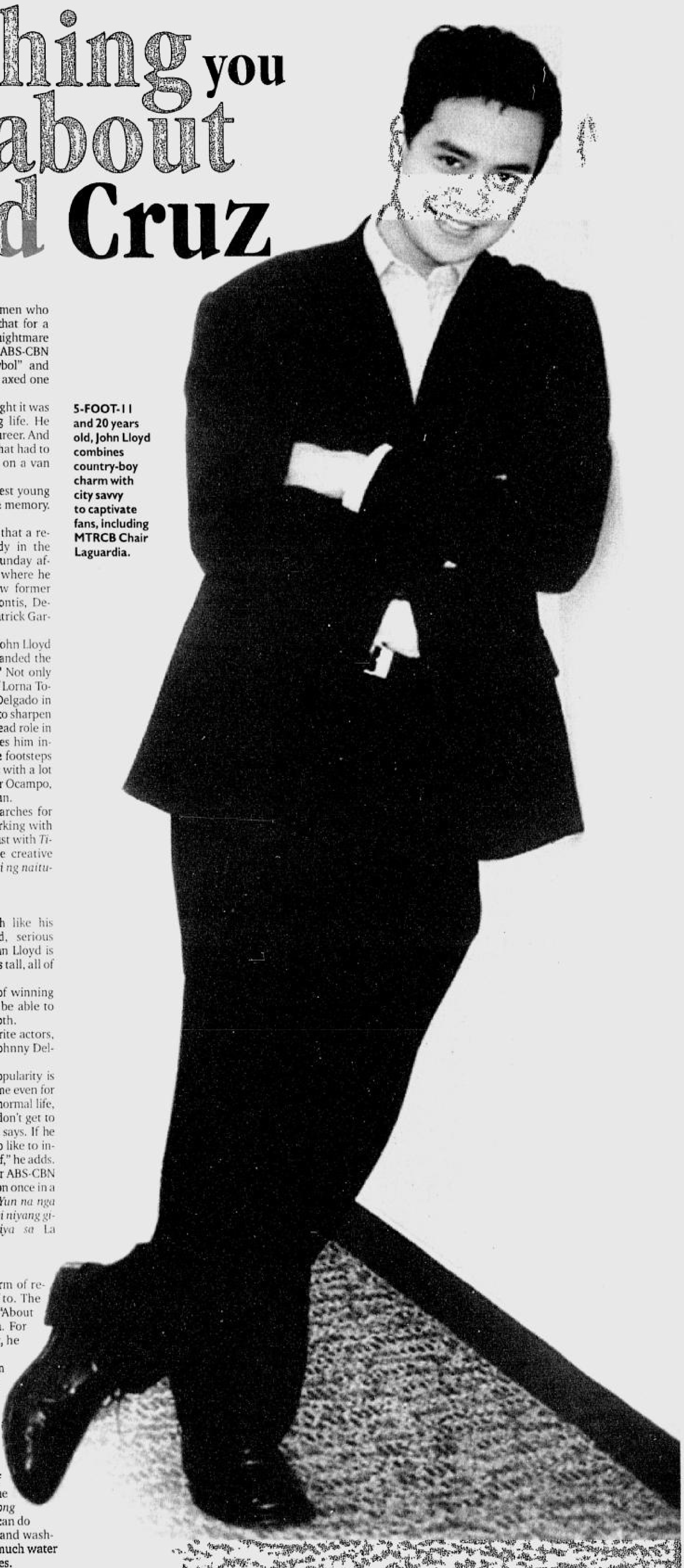
Almost everything you wanted to know about John Lloyd Cruz



5-FOOT-11 and 20 years old, John Lloyd combines country-boy charm with city savvy to captivate fans, including MTRCB Chair Laguardia.

PHOTOS BY JOEL SOL CRUZ

By Alexa H. Bacay
and Kathryn Fatima Reyes

"WHAT school did you go to," was the first question.

John Lloyd Cruz answers, "As Yuri, I went to Harvard." Everybody in the room laughs.

The quick reply from the young man who plays Yuri the young lawyer in the telenovela "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay" is more than just a show of the actor's quick wit. It also shows how closely he is identified with his character in the popular daily soap on ABS-CBN, and it disproves his own claim that he fails at comedy as an actor.

"I want to be known as a versatile actor," the 20-year-old says over a hasty lunch while he's waiting for the script for the day's taping of the telenovela. "*Kaya lang* I really fail at comedy. It's not my field, *pero sana 'wag lang laging puro drama ang gawin ko.*"

Waiting for script

His role as Lorna Tolentino's son in "Kay Tagal," he confesses, represents the biggest pressure in his young life now. In his other regular drama series, Sunday afternoon's "Tabing Ilog" in the same network, John Lloyd also plays a serious role as Rovic. The difference, he explains, is that in "Tabing Ilog," the performers simply have to get the thought of the dialogue and then say their lines in their own words, while in "Kay Tagal," he and the other performers have to memorize their scripted lines word for word. Which explains why this early afternoon, John Lloyd and his road manager Danny, a girl, are restless throughout lunch while waiting for the script.

John Lloyd hails from Nueva Ecija, and it sometimes shows in the way he talks, when he uses Tagalog words and phrases unfamiliar to many of us, such as "*mag-urong ng kinanan*," when he means to say clear the dining table. He was one-third of the Koolits trio, which also included Baron Geisler and Mark Solis. The group had long disbanded. While John Lloyd and Baron are busy on television and in movies, Mark has disappeared from the public eye to go back to school. John Lloyd says he envies Mark because the latter was able to finish his studies.

In real life, John Lloyd, a member of Star Circle Batch 5, went to the Pasig Catholic College for his first year in high school. When he joined show business, he enrolled in a home study program.

Next year, he hopes to go back to school. He is supposed to be in college now and he plans to take up business administration. For a time, he admits, he was inspired to take up law because of his role in "Kay Tagal."

He plays Yuri and the love interest of Katrina (Bea Alonzo), in the prime time soap of Channel 2. "On second thought," he says, "*hindi talaga kaya*. It'll remain just a dream."

Wasted tears

John Lloyd himself is the stuff that fills the dream of many girls and young women who follow the telenovela. But he says that for a while, he thought he was having a nightmare himself. He was doing four shows on ABS-CBN —"Palibhasa Lalake," "ASAP," "Kaybol" and "Gimik"—when all four shows were axed one after another.

John Lloyd says he cried and thought it was the lowest point in his very young life. He thought it was the end of his short career. And he was also worried about the bills that had to be paid, including the installments on a van he had just bought at that time.

Now, John Lloyd, one of the hottest young stars on Philippine TV, smiles at the memory. "*Sayang lang ang luha ko,*" he says.

What he did not know then was that a replacement for "Gimik" was already in the making. That new show was the Sunday afternoon youth soap, "Tabing Ilog," where he is now a regular along with fellow former "Gimik" stars Kaye Abad, Paolo Contis, Desiree del Valle, Jodie Santamaria, Patrick Garcia, Paula Peralejo and Baron.

After two years of "Tabing Ilog," John Lloyd bagged his biggest break when he landed the role in "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay." Not only does he get to work with the likes of Lorna Tolentino, Edu Manzano and Johnny Delgado in "Kay Tagal," he also gets the chance to sharpen his skills as an actor. Best of all, the lead role in the prime time daily soap guarantees him instant popularity as he follows in the footsteps of young men who became big stars with a lot of help from telenovelas, like Diether Ocampo, Jericho Rosales, even the late Rico Yan.

"*Ang galing, iba,*" John Lloyd searches for words as he describes how it is working with Lorna T. "One great privilege. Not just with *Tita* LT, but the whole cast. And the creative team, *ang galing din. Sobra, ang laki ng naitulong sa akin ng 'Kay Tagal.'*"

Time with friends

In person, John Lloyd is much like his lawyer character: quiet, reserved, serious about his craft. In person, too, John Lloyd is slimmer than his TV image, and he's tall, all of 5-foot-11.

As an actor, he's not dreaming of winning awards this early, but he wants to be able to show more versatility and more depth.

He also wants to be like his favorite actors, two Johnnys—Johnny Depp and Johnny Delgado.

An inevitable trade-off for his popularity is that he is always too busy to have time even for himself. What he misses most from normal life, he says, is time with his friends. "I don't get to see them as often as I want to," he says. If he had the time, he says, he would also like to indulge in sports. "*Gusto kong mag*-surf," he adds.

Told that Jericho Rosales, another ABS-CBN talent, manages to escape to La Union once in a while to surf, John Lloyd replies, "'*Yun na nga eh, doon ako bilib sa kanya. Ang dami niyang ginagawa pero nakakapunta pa siya sa* La Union."

House chores

Watching movies is the only form of relaxation that he can treat himself to. The last movie he saw at home was "About Schmidt" starring Jack Nicholson. For his fix of big screen entertainment, he goes to the Podium.

Eating is another favorite John Lloyd topic. For breakfast, he likes cow's milk in his fried rice. He has just started following a white meat diet and does not eat beef and pork anymore, just chicken, fish and vegetables. He will never ever eat okra, he says.

John Lloyd is not a lover of household chores either. Does he know how to cook? "*Marunong akong kumain,*" he replies. One chore he can do is "*mag-urong,*" clearing the table and washing the dishes. But he wastes too much water when he washes plates, he confesses.

He does not have the patience to read thick books, not even Harry Potter. But right now, he is trying to finish Bach's "Jonathan Livingston Seagull," given to him by the telenovela's head writer. He says he used to love reading devotionals but he stopped because he couldn't find time for it anymore.

We tease him with a few slumbook questions, and he is game.

First kiss?
"Mommy!"
First love?
"God."
Crush?
"Secret."

CCF convert

Would we like to know his idea of an unforgettable date, John Lloyd asks.

"My dream date would be on a yacht, with a small orchestra. And then, of course, dinner. And while we're eating, the band is playing. *Mas maganda kung aabutin kami ng* dawn."

But he declares, without missing a beat, that his girlfriend is Ciara Sotto, and they've been on for more than a year. When prodded to answer more questions about her and him together, John Lloyd immediately apologizes and says he prefers to keep his relationship private.

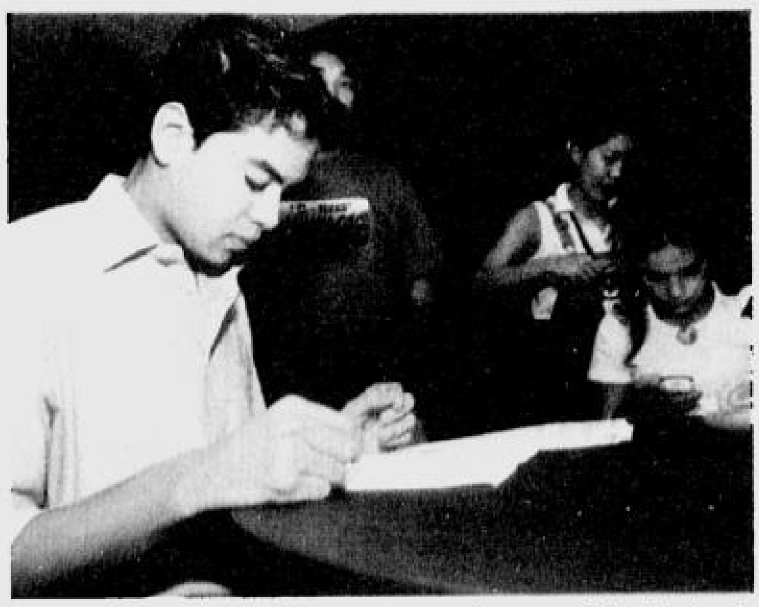
Sundays will find him driving, and going to church. One Sunday last year, he went with Ciara to a Christ Commission Fellowship. He enjoyed what he heard and he became a convert. "Joining the CCF, *'yun ang pinakamalaking pagbabago sa akin*. That molded me into what I am now."

Movie and Television Review and Classification Board Chair Consoliza Laguardia is a known big fan of John Lloyd. During a visit to ABS-CBN, she had pictures taken of her with the young star, and requested network officials to make his telenovela character more sympathetic.

How does he explain his popularity now?

"I think I was just given the right project at the right time," John Lloyd/Yuri replies softly, "and I feel very blessed."

OUT OF COURT, John Lloyd as lawyer Yuri and Bea Alonzo as Katrina rehearse their "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay" lines before a take.



MEMORIZING their lines so they'll know what to say, John Lloyd and Bea don't talk while studying the script.

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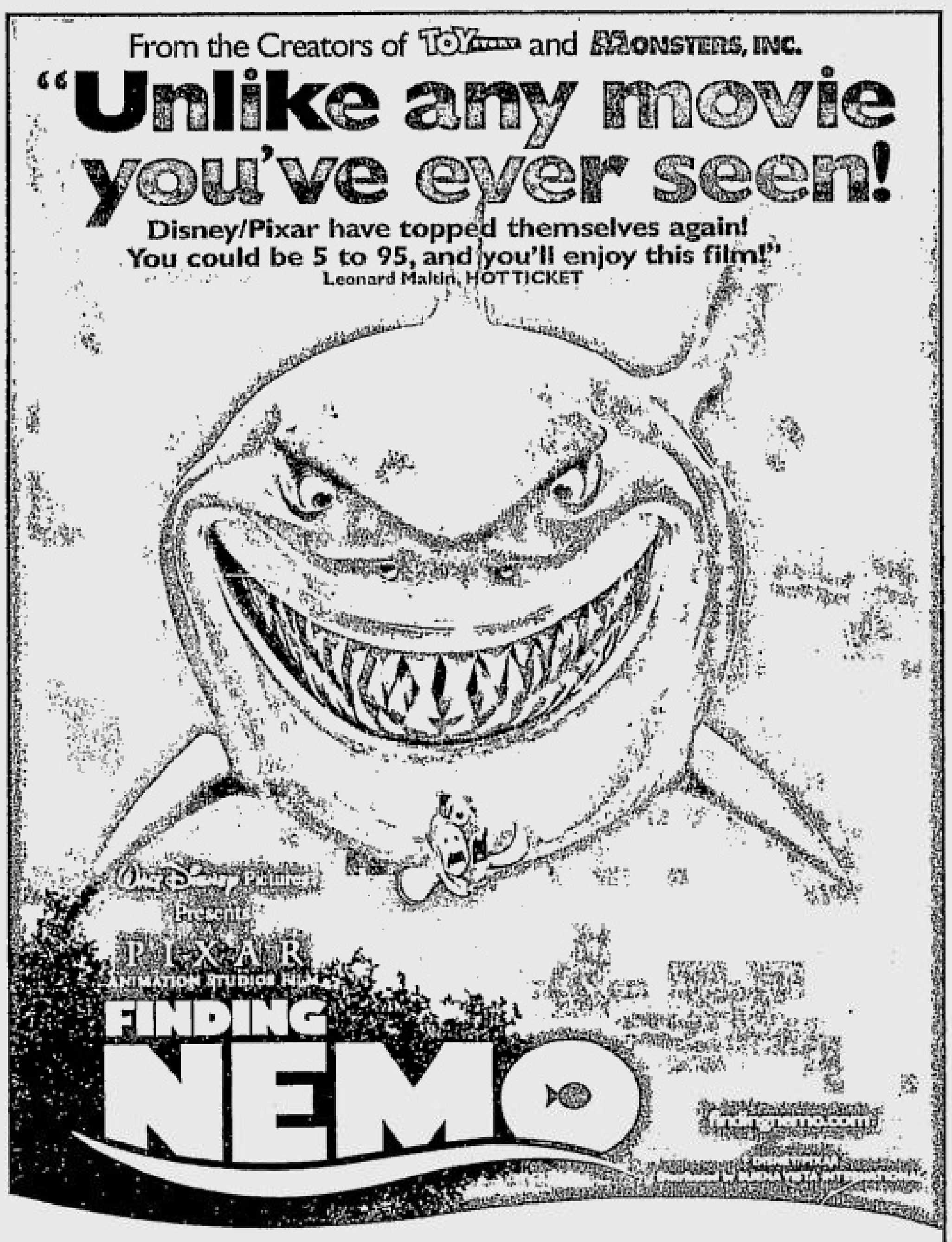
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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Ali 1	MOTEL
Ali 2	SNAKE LADY
Ali 3	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 4	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 5	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 6	IN-LAWS
Ali 7	NAKED WEAPON

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AUG 17	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 24	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
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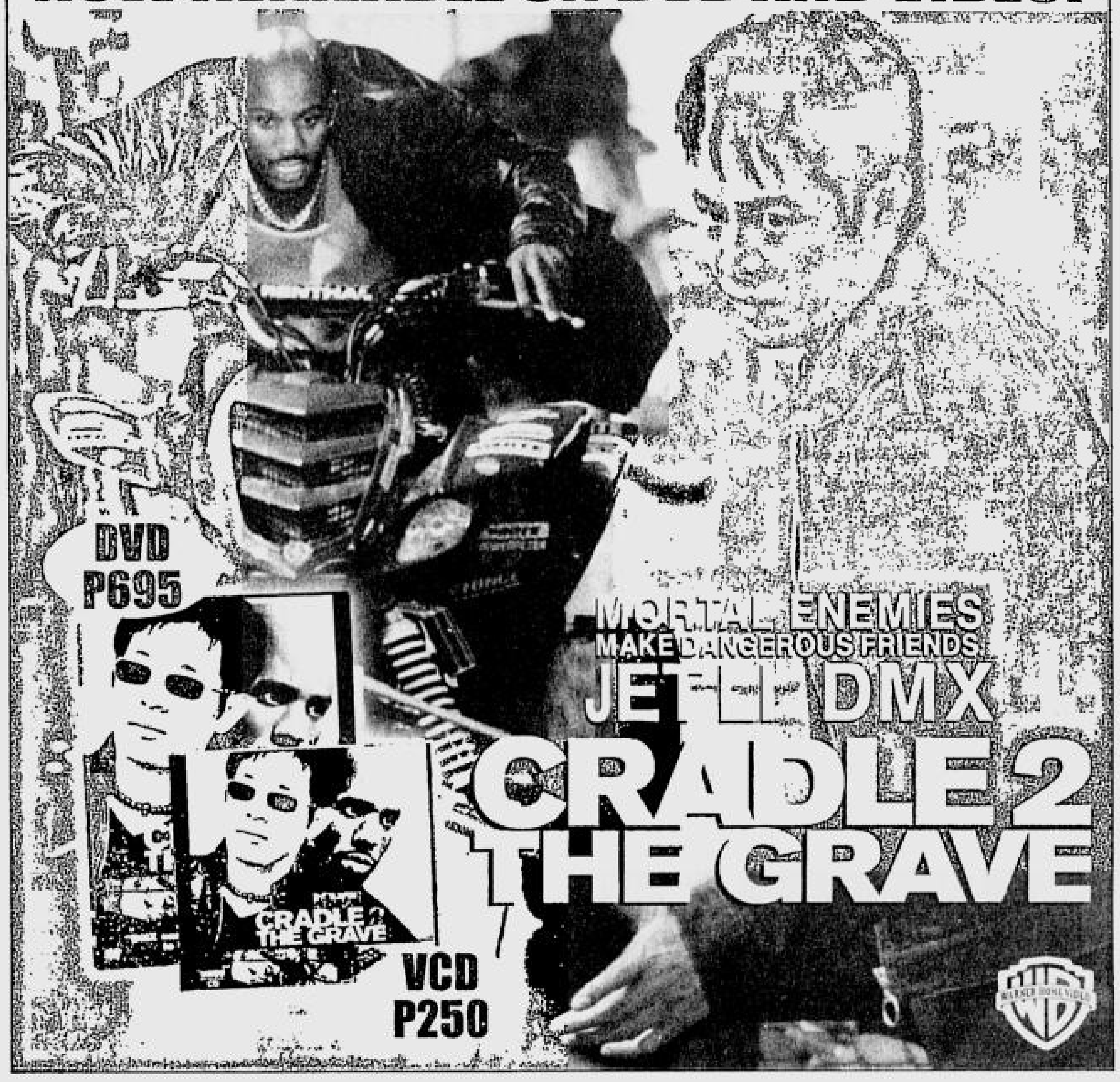
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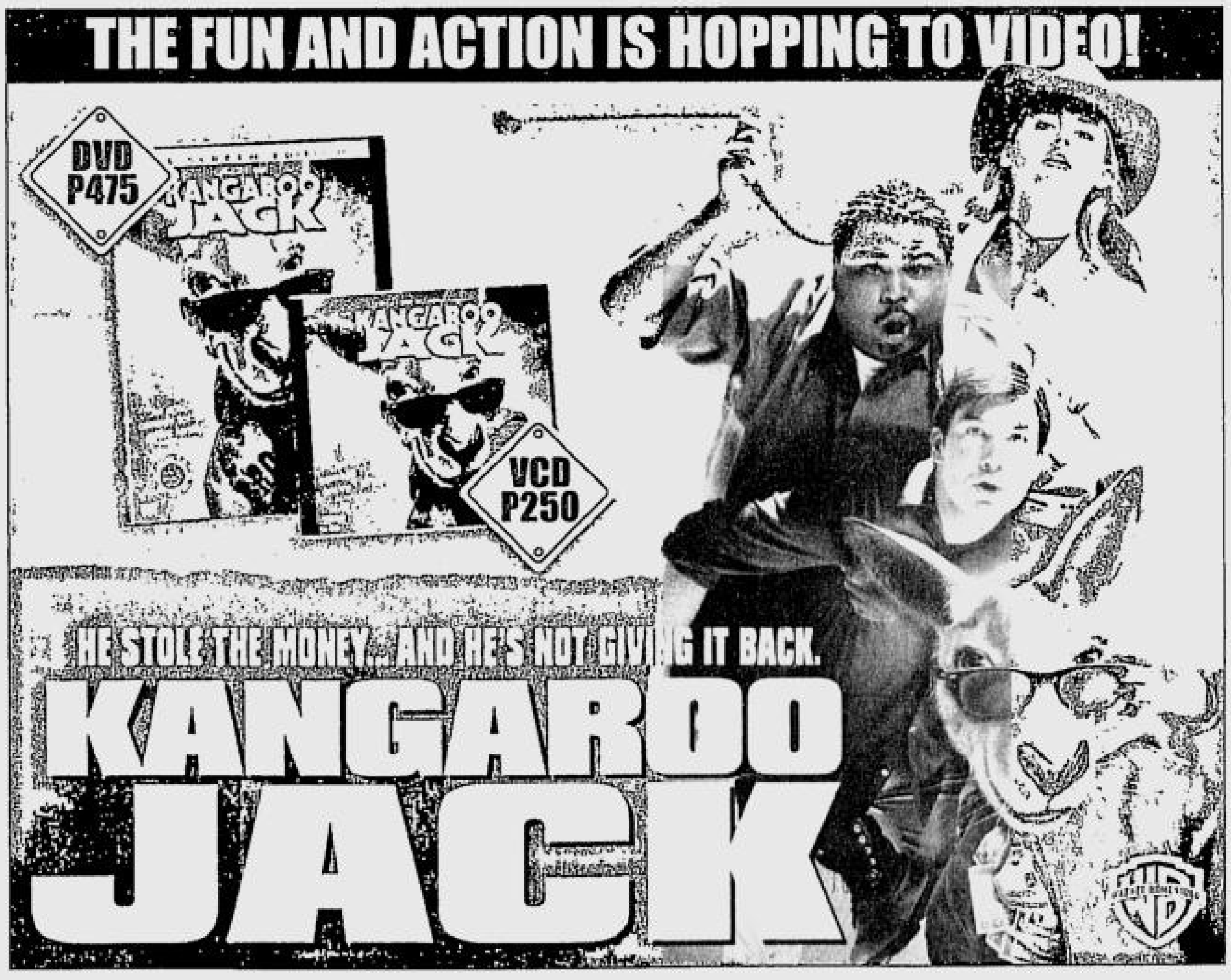
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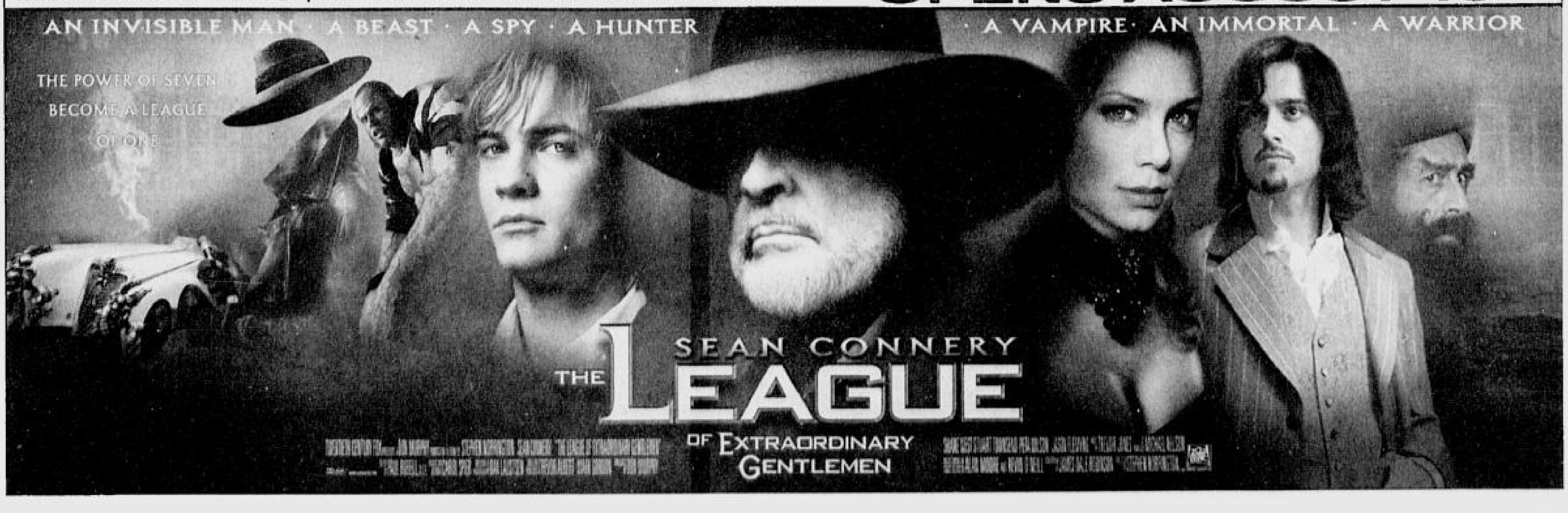
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SEAN CONNERY
THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Lea sings 'Songs From Home'

LEA Salonga performs an all-OPM repertoire in "Songs From Home" on Sept. 12 and 13 at the PICC Plenary Hall. The concert, directed by Bobby Garcia, is presented by Bayo.

"In 'Songs From Home,' we highlight some of the most outstanding songs ever written in our country," says Garcia.

Gerard Salonga will conduct a 50-piece orchestra. Guest performers will be Ogie Alcasid and a surprise.

Tickets to the show are P3,000, P2,500, P1,800, P1,200, P900 and P600, and are available at Ticketworld National Bookstore, 891-5610.

Producer is Lyncor Inc. Executive producer is Ferdie Agustin.

ABS-CBN appeal on Mel-Jay cases...

From page C1

policy took effect. The policy was issued in 1995, but Tiangco signed the commercial contract in 1994.

ABS-CBN also argued in its appeal that Tiangco, Sonza and GMA 7 violated the exclusivity provisions of the two news anchors' talent agreement.

Under the contract, Tiangco and Sonza were exclusive talents of ABS-CBN until 1997, but they breached the contract by agreeing with GMA 7 to produce "Partners: Mel and Jay" in 1996, said ABS-CBN.

The Quezon City RTC ruling, which the CA upheld, said the unfair suspension of Tiangco gave her valid reason to cancel her agreement with ABS-CBN.

Finding the Pinoys...

From page C3

who keeps calling the system guys when I can't get it to work." Cruz says one has to learn to use technology if you work on actually animating characters "but it doesn't necessarily make it easier. You have a lot of details to take care of. It's all the same, in the end."

Like Bohol, she is relishing being able to work with Disney: "I am still amazed. I mean, every movie I watched when I was a kid was by Disney."

Next adventure

The very busy Cruz loves living in the eclectic city of San Francisco, where she is currently trying to develop a green thumb by cultivating a garden. "If I didn't have my garden, I'd just be at work all week." She's been back to the country several times, recently for a wedding. But work is what drives her these days.

As "Finding Nemo" proves, Filipino craftsmanship comes in many forms but remains resilient and vibrant, visible in the way Dory mouths her lines perfectly or the mesmerizing seascape unfolding on the screen. Bohol and Cruz are now deep into work for Pixar's next adventure—the superhero tale "The Incredibles," due out in fall, 2004.

Disney/Pixar's "Finding Nemo" opens in Metro Manila theaters on Aug. 13.

Nora Aunor...

From page C3

who are unable to find their way through the government's bureaucratic maze.

This gives a lot of psychic satisfaction to Mike Enriquez, host of GMA-7's, "Imbestigador" program, as well as to the hard-hitting show's staffers.

The show itself has gone out of its way to help victims of injustice by exposing their oppressors. One dramatic example is the case of "Elena," a woman who was illegally detained by some cops, and then raped by them.

At first, she thought she was too weak to protest and bring her rapists to justice, but with the help of "Imbestigador," that's exactly what happened.

After three years, Mike Enriquez's show has relaxed a bit. Aside from its hard-hitting exposés, it now includes features that aim to inspire and educate viewers. It also showcases the efforts of groups and individuals to help their communities.

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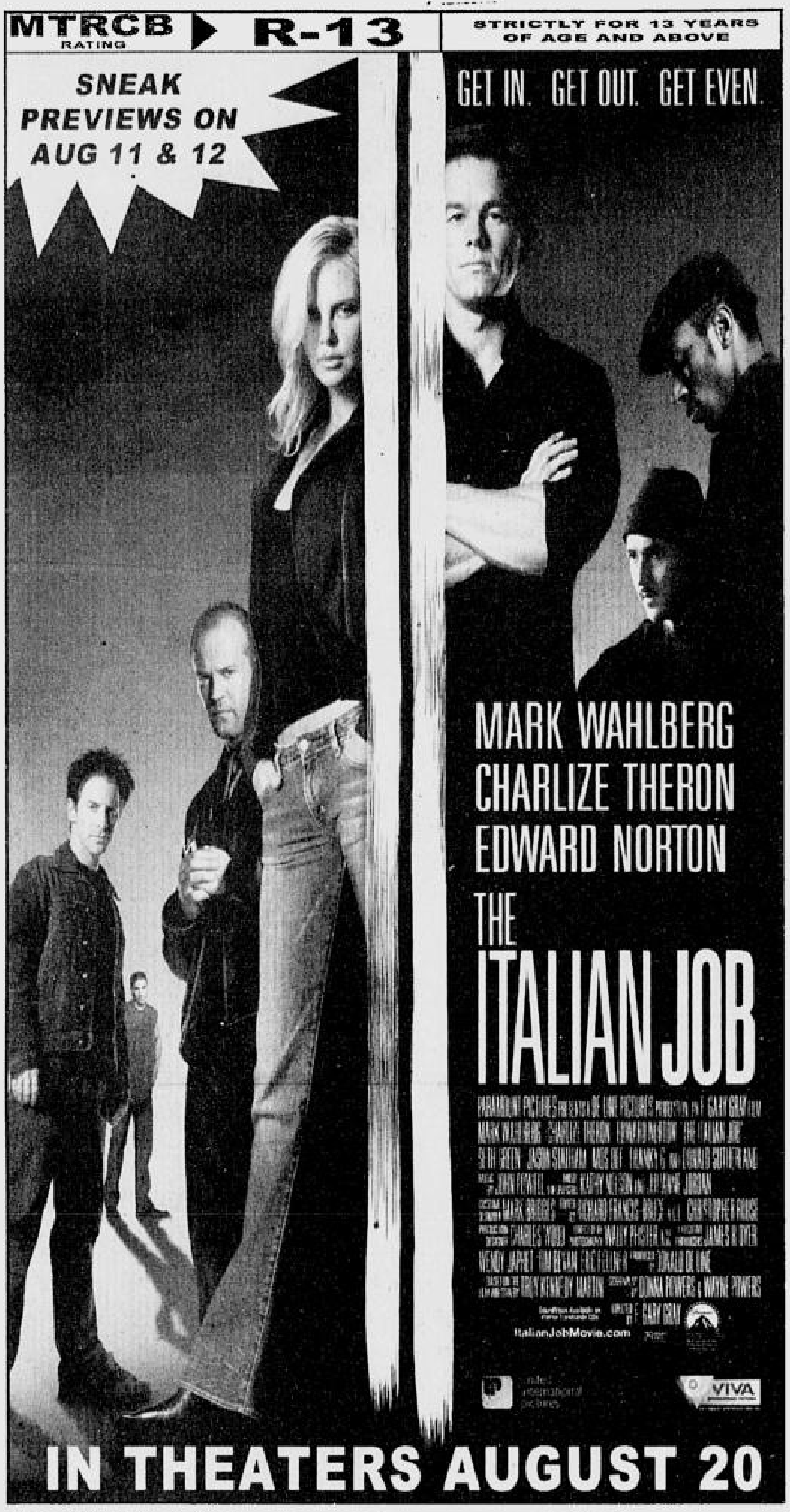
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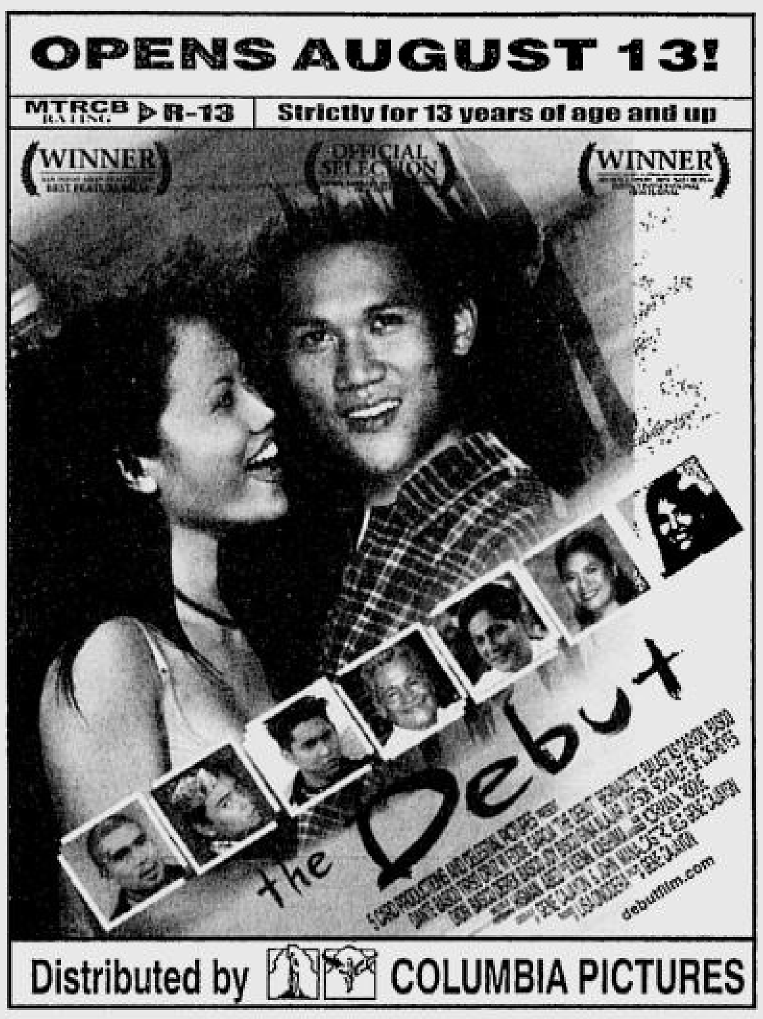
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BAD BOYS 2 R13 1:00,4:00, 7:00,10:00	NAKED WEAPON R13 1:25 3:35,5:45 MY LITTLE EYE - R13 7:40,9:40	THE IN-LAWS PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10

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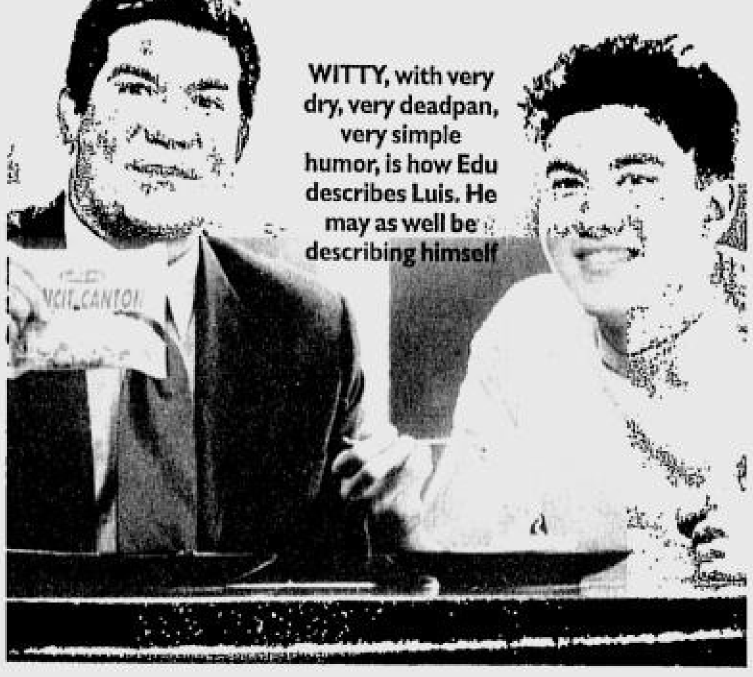
THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MOTEL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MOTEL
B	SNAKE LADY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	MOTEL
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
CINEMA-7	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THE IN-LAWS
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	SNAKE LADY
CINEMA-15	NAKED WEAPON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
[illegible] CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-1	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-2	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-4	BULLETPROOF MONK
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Lucky Luis and the original Edu


WITTY, with very dry, very deadpan, very simple humor, is how Edu describes Luis. He may as well be describing himself

IF THERE is an award for most inspired casting in a TV commercial, the trophy could very well go to the new Lucky Me! Pancit Canton TV ad starring father-and-son Edu Manzano and Luis "Lucky" Manzano.

Wen Santos, brand manager of Lucky Me! Pancit Canton Original flavor, explains why the father-and-son team was picked to endorse the product.

"We often see them together on their TV shows and we realized they are a perfect fit for Lucky Me," she says. "Their personalities suit the brand. Also, we've noticed they are reinventing themselves, career-wise. Edu is now in news and current affairs, while Luis is going full-blast with his hosting, VJ work and modeling. But what really stands out in their TV shows is their rapport, their intense closeness. That is precisely what we are trying to encourage in our commercial."

"When my dad and I are together, chaos erupts," says Luis. That's putting it mildly, because whenever they are together it's nonstop laughter and revelry.

Edu singles out Luis' wacky sense of humor as his most unforgettable memory of his firstborn's growing-up years. "He can be very witty," Edu says of his son. "And his humor is very dry, very deadpan, very simple."

As a parent, Edu says he tries to be his kid's best pal. When Luis was younger, Edu and his former wife, Vilma Santos (a Lucky Me! Instant Mami endorser in 1996), made sure they were a constant presence in their son's life, despite their hectic schedules.

The way Luis describes him, Edu could very well be the coolest dad in and out of show biz. He rides the MRT, shops in malls, and visits amusement parks with his younger children, Amanda Danielle, 10, and Lorenzo Eduardo, 8.

"My dad is my best friend," says Luis. "He's a buddy who will always be there for me no matter what. He's my *kabarkada*, but the respect is always there."

"My family is more important to me than fame and fortune," says Edu. "My kids will be with me forever."

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THE PARIS-BASED abstractionist tackles memory and self in new show.

Briccio Santos' memories of self

By Lisa Cariño Ito
Contributor

IN PHILIPPINE contemporary abstraction, a primary theme is the search for the primordial elements of self.

Briccio Santos responds to this search by a conceptual charting of origins and autobiographical impressions, creating abstract allusions to his literal and metaphórical journeys and probes.

Such forays into the labyrinth of self are exhibited in Santos' one-man show titled "Telos" at the Mag:net Gallery, Makati (Paseo Center, corner Paseo de Roxas and Cedeno Street) from Aug. 14-Sept. 9.

BRICCIO/D2

Manuel Ocampo returns

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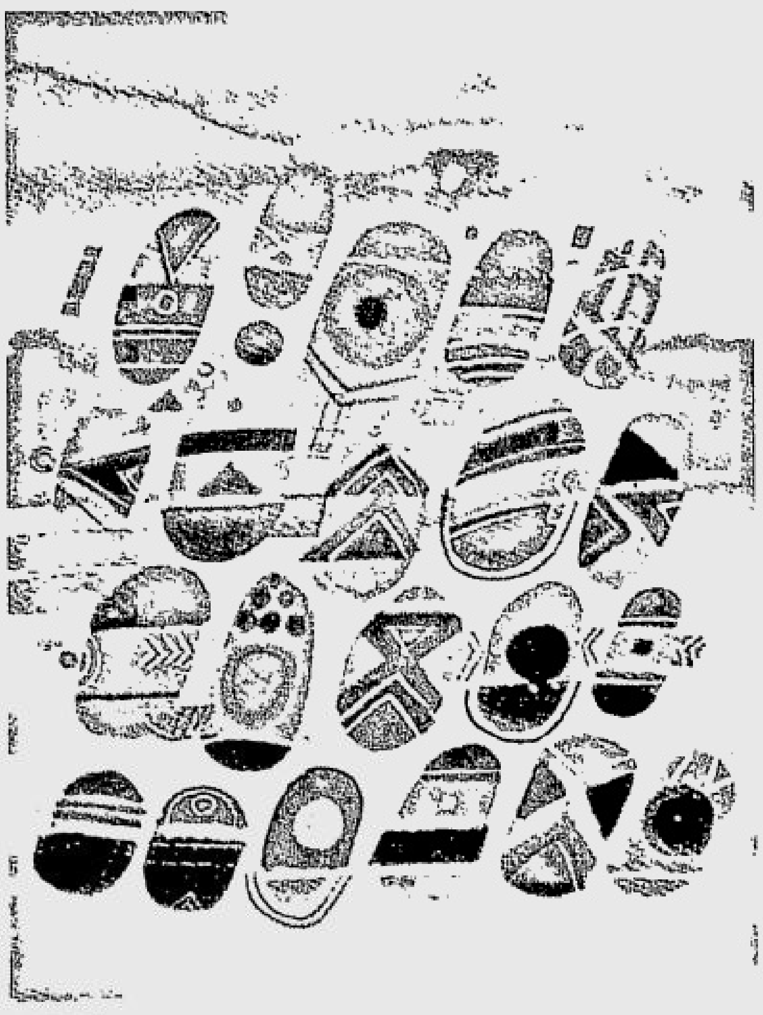

"GEMS"

AVIADO AT MANDARIN

Delicious little show

By Sylvia L. Mayuga
Contributor

PAST marble floors into an elevator, lights encased in plastic with a handmade paper look, through Tin Hau restaurant and into the Mandarin Oriental's Tivoli Room—the opening of Pandy Aviado's 23rd one-man show turned out to be a total aesthetic experience.

Titled "Visions of Gems & Mythical Birds," 15 of his latest color and compositional experiments fan out in a leisurely time exposure of artistic evolution. In and out of art galleries, a playful master painter and printmaker continues to rifle through the infinity of materials to be discovered in the Muse's byways.

A sequence of moods and stages of creation—at rest, in flight, inviting play, falling into contemplation—offer a feast in perfect counterpoint to a stormy evening.

The gem pieces were delicious appetizers—in vibrant day glo colors that make them look like pop visitors to a church pediment, or psychedelic beach sandals in contemplative arrest against a changing Bohol seascape.

These belong to Aviado's latest. For an entrée, in turn, there is an array of his totemic *sarimanok*, growing richer and deeper through time.

His variations on this theme were Boots' main choices—monoprints handtinted with watercolor blended with gold dust on paper; or painted on canvas in oil, watercolor, and acrylic emulsion touched with gold leaf, all marked by the artist's signal spirit symbols in pen and ink. This mythic Maranao bird also ubiquitous in painter Abdulmari Imao's early art has appeared and reappeared down nearly 40 years of Aviado's own distinguished and multiform career.

His first *sarimanok* was a prize-winning etching for the Shell National Student's Art Competition in 1964. By 1978, it had landed on a wall painting at the PWU building, part of Imelda Marcos' Kulay Anyo project. In the same year this bird multiplied to a squadron, in a sequence of the hilarious animated film feature "Tadhana" (its many painterly gems unfortunately buried under the political avalanche of a collapsing Marcos regime).

For dessert, his grid-style collages as food for thought: the use of tarlatan, i.e. gauze, not painted over as in the mixed media works of other artists, but in its natural form—frayed in parts, bits and pieces of gauze like life's own moments, painstakingly layered over handmade paper to create a rhythm of subtle gray gradations.

Pulling back, we see a circle emerging in one canvas (Crystal Reflections), a bluish cross in another (Capiz Shell Variation), hidden patterns revealed as minutiae become a whole, a process so powerful the pieces remained untitled till the last minute. This artist meditates—and it shows.

From ritual to antic and back again, Aviado's *sarimanok* surfs on clouds at the Tivoli till the 20th anniversary of the Aquino assassination in August, at home in the lighthearted ambience of the room's parrot theme, with metal bird candelabras mistaken by some to be part of the show. And why not? Birds in the company of birds in a professionally curated exhibit, at home on the white walls and barside mirrors of a fine-dining restaurant, make a delightful living gallery for a moment's respite in the timeless. In the round, it's easier to choose which of these pieces to bring home at surprisingly tasty prices. *Bon apetit!*

OCAMPO: Away from the country for 17 years

Manuel Ocampo duets with Romeo Lee in 'Lee Almighty' at Mag:net

INTERNATIONALLY renowned Filipino painter Manuel Ocampo, hailed by the New York art media as a major Asian artist, will stage a multimedia spectacle in a homecoming show at the Mag:net Gallery, The Loop, ELJC Compound, ABS-CBN compound, Quezon City.

Ocampo, who has been widely exhibited in New York, Madrid, Paris, Mexico City and Los Angeles, will collaborate with rock and performance artist Romeo Lee in "Lee Almighty" on Aug. 12 at 6 p.m.

"Lee Almighty" is a multi-faceted work consisting of a gallery installation, photographs, video, posters, a giant billboard and performative components such as a rock concert, press conference, live interviews and planning conferences.

Co-produced by Ocampo and Lee, the work mimics, in an improvisational and low-tech fashion, a full-blown media campaign involving the participation of a motley crew of participants—from the tight security of Spike, a neopolitan mastiff, to other artists and friends of the duo.

"Lee Almighty" catapults Romeo Lee, the quintessential icon of counter-culture, to stardom, while exposing the ways and words of the mass media in perpetuating "the cult of personality." The show does this by adopting the means of the mass media that it seeks to parody. It provides a space of resistance in an ironic and banal yet thought-provoking way.

Participating visual artists include Gerry Tan, Gemo Tapales, Poi Beltran, Martin Aviles, Jason Olivera, Geraldine Javier and Robert Langenegger. Aside from Romeo Lee and the Brown Briefs, providing the music are Narda, Indio I, Kapatid, Blue, Jeans, the Brownbeat All Stars and Bing.

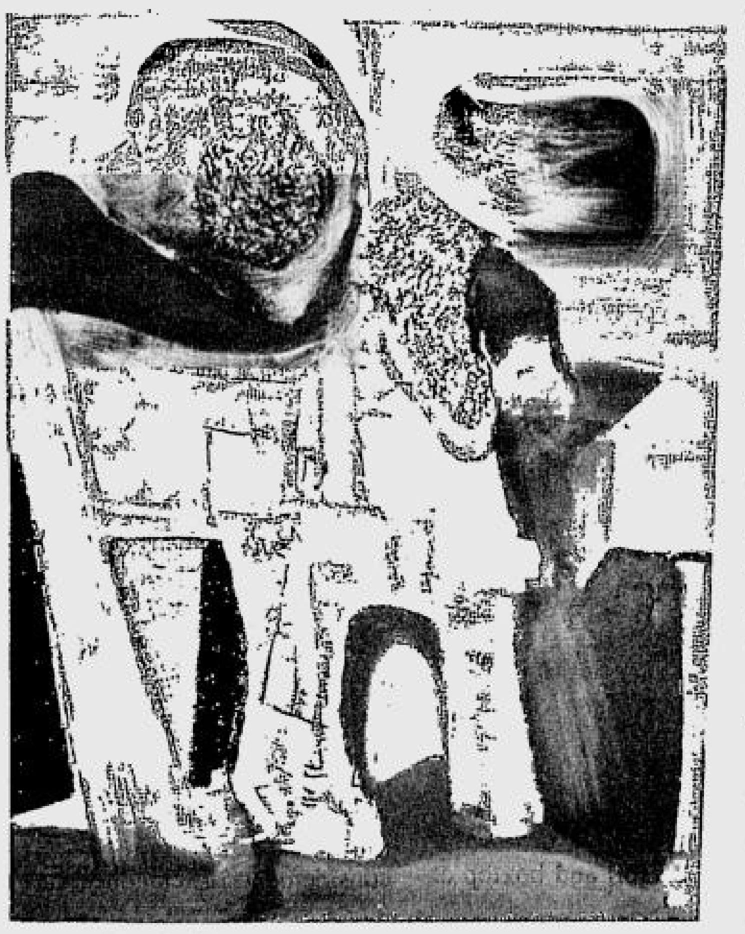
ROMEO Lee with his favorite '*ukay-ukay*' parodies the Hollywood hit movie "Bruce Almighty"

OCAMPO and Lee ham it up

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

GROUP SHOW AT LE SOUFFLÉ

THE SINING, Kulay at Tinta group will hold an exhibit, "Sikat at Le Soufflé," today until Aug. 30. Le Soufflé is located at the 2nd floor, Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Participating artists are Noel Bautista, Rene Belison, Ige Concepcion, Crisan, Robert de Aro, Manny de Guzman, Jr., Freddie Dumaquita, Rhoel Galit, Lyndon Garrovillas, Honey Banal-Huertas, Joel Janer, Kaiseria, Nene Laporga, Pol Mesina, Jr., Dyna Ondoy, Rejoice Ondoy, Andy Pernia, Aed Solis, Bhong Sison, Jun Taniang, Tina Tibang, Andy Urag, Tam Urao, Norberto Villez and Molly Yap.


"PETS of the Arc"

Briccio Santos' upcoming exhibit showcases works that convey literal and metaphorical journeys into unknown territories

Briccio Santos'. . .

From page D1

"Telos" contains mixed-media paintings that range from large- to small-scale, showing an intersection between intuitive collation and conceptual expression.

The formal qualities of Santos' works hover between the gestural and the sculptural. Santos alternates his use of barely legible personal scribbles and newspaper cutouts as collage with rough pebble formations and evenly spaced marbles he had collected while in Paris, where he is partly based.

All are interspersed and blended with layerings on paint, producing sculptural effects.

Santos' works also refer to gestural painting, where spontaneous acts of artistic creation are privileged. However, his use of sculptural and gestural techniques belies the semiotic implications of his commentaries on memory and exploration.

The tactile nature of his canvases, which preserve the texture of solid pebbles and pellets collected from his travels, become symbolic of his literal and metaphorical journeys into unknown territories. His technique of randomly layering various materials also alludes to memory: the act of provoking and salvaging something from chaos.

The allusions to memory are also extended in his use of personal cultural symbols alluding to exploration. "Pets of the Arc" and "Signs of the Arc" are references to a Parisian cultural landmark and the daily scenes that the artist encounters in relation to this.

His general palette is somber and subdued, reflective of the hues of France's climate during autumn.

Metaphorical

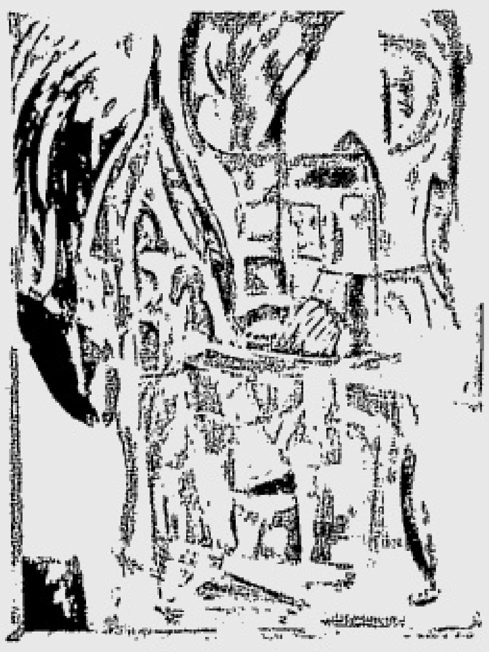
While the sojourns border on the literal, Santos also dwells on metaphorical explorations in his "Lunar" series.

Here, the artist articulates the primeval and primordial in the craters of the mind. In works containing islands of pebbles and swirls of neutral pigments, the landscape of a distinct time emerges.

More sojourns into the archaic and archeological are found in the artist's Paris works, which give off the air of solidity, permanence and massive compactness. One feels as if one is standing before an old structure, a façade or a resurrected ruin.

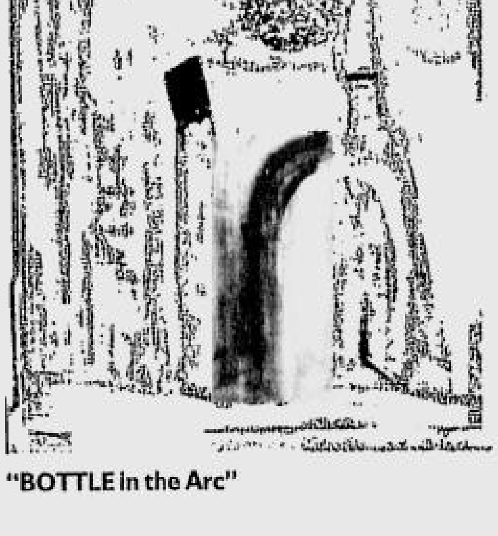
Meanwhile, anatomical references to the complexity of self are portrayed in works such as "My Head," "Toe" and "Side Glance."

The last painting is a structurally complex self-portrait of sorts that hides architectural references. Inasmuch as it defamiliarizes the representational notion of the body, it also speaks as a metaphor for the complexity of the body as personal space.


"MY Head"

Santos also will display small works on paper done while on vacation in Manila last year. In the works, he alternately creates inchoate and defined variations of the square format.

In Santos' reinterpretation of experience, the use of visual symbols and narrations is a personal, rather than a collective, allusion, attempting to encompass the inchoate experiences of humanity in a single sweep of introspection.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4. A consumer may win only once in every draw.

5. Winners will officially be notified via mail, with instructions on how to claim their prizes. Winners will only be considered as official once they receive their notification letters. Prizes not claimed within 60 days after receipt of letter will be forfeited upon approval of BFAD.

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7. If winner is ill or physically incapable to claim his/her prize, he/she may send a representative with the following documents:

   a. Letter of Authorization
   b. Notification Letter
   c. 2 valid IDs

8. The draws will be supervised by an authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).

9. Schedule of draws, areas, deadline of entries & prizes are as follows:

Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	Area	No. of Winners	Prize (Tax-free)
1st Preliminary Draw				
Aug 8	Aug 1	GMA	40	₱ 25,000 each
		Central Luzon	10	
		North Luzon	10	
		South Luzon 1	10	
		South Luzon 2	10	
		East Visayas	10	
		West Visayas	10	
		North Mindanao	10	
		South Mindanao	10	
2nd Preliminary Draw				
Sept 3	Aug 27	North Luzon	1	₱ 500,000 each
Sept 6	Aug 30	Central Luzon	1	
Sept 7	Aug 31	East Visayas	1	
Sept 10	Sept 3	South Luzon 2	1	
Sept 13	Sept 6	South Luzon 1	1	
Sept 11	Sept 4	South Mindanao	1	
Sept 14	Sept 7	North Mindanao	1	
Sept 20	Sept 13	West Visayas	1	
Sept 21	Sept 14	GMA	3	

Names of winners will be announced during the Gising Milyonaryo 2 Mall Shows to be held in selected areas. Watch out for the schedules!

Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	Area	No. of Winners	Prize (Tax-free)
Grand Draw				
October 18	October 4	GMA	4	₱ 1,000,000 each
		North Luzon	1	
		Central Luzon	1	
		South Luzon 1	1	
		South Luzon 2	1	
		East Visayas	1	
		West Visayas	1	
		North Mindanao	1	
		South Mindanao	1	

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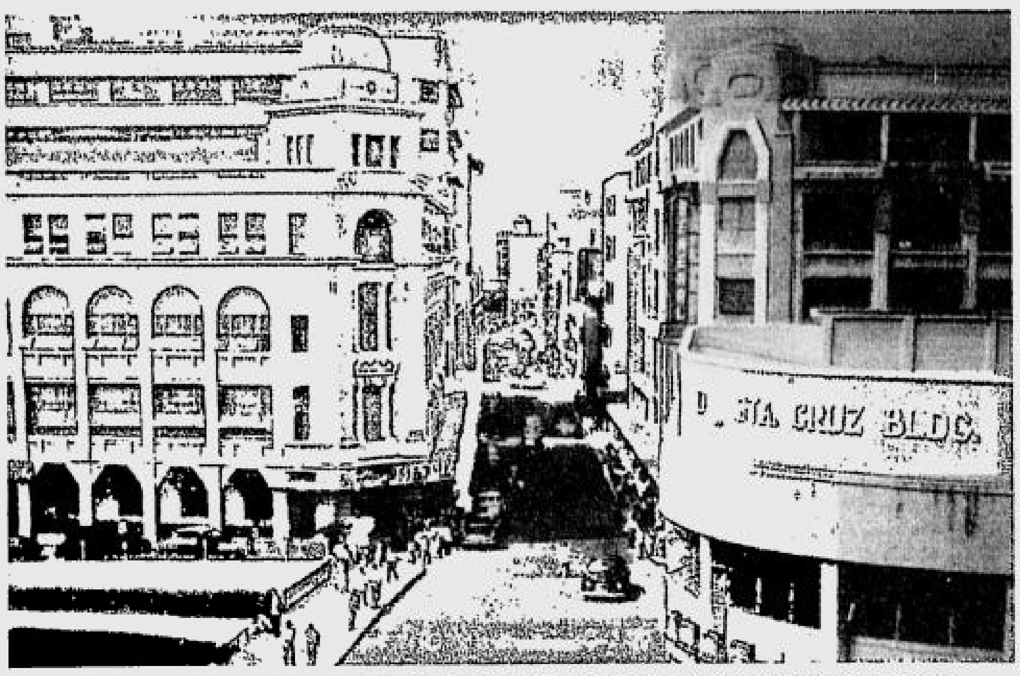
Manila, a city beautiful?


BUILDINGS in pre-war Manila respected each other's scale and style. This led to a fairly uniform architectural language that still allowed distinctive variations.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THE OUTSTANDING exhibition on Daniel Burnham's vision of Manila at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila asks a question: "City Beautiful?"

We who live in Manila a century after Burnham drew his plans for it as a "City Beautiful" know how appropriate that question is.

"City Beautiful" is an architecture and planning movement that had its start at the famed Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris at the end of the 19th century. It reached its flowering in the early years of the 20th century. The cities designed in the City Beautiful style combined monumental classical revival architecture that set off vistas framed by broad verdant avenues connecting large public parks.

Cities Beautiful planned during the era were Washington DC, Chicago and San Francisco in the United States, Canberra in Australia, and New Delhi in India.

Manila was planned by Burnham in 1904 as a jewel of a "City Beautiful," reflecting the city's status as the capital of the emerging American empire.

At first glance, the exhibition is, as Ding Roces so aptly observed, "talking of Manila in the past tense." However, it goes beyond that. The past that the exhibition points out serves to encourage Manileños that their city does have a future. It silently asks Manileños how they could have allowed their city to decline.

"Make no little plans," admonished Burnham. His plans were grand enough that a century later, they still are the foundation for Manila.

The Manila and Baguio plans were completed in transit with his assistant, Pierce Anderson, working on the schemes. For Manila, Burnham laid out grand boulevards that were crisscrossed by large open spaces, with a central government complex (partially built—the Agrifina Circle buildings and the National Museum) at the foot of a large park (today's Rizal Park) leading out to the bay.

Pasig preserved

He preserved the Pasig River and its various tributaries (*esteros*), highlighting the traditionally riverine nature of Manila and giving the city the feeling of a tropical Venice.

Burnham saw the value of the past, specified that Intramuros was to be left untouched, and ascribed to it a place of honor in the network of grand boulevards and parks that his Manila was to become.

The final report made five recommendations:

- The development of the waterfront and the location of parks and parkways provide recreational opportunities for residents of all city quarters;
- The establishment of an efficient street system to connect all parts of the city;
- The appropriate siting of buildings depending on their uses;
- The development of waterways for transportation;
- The provision of summer resorts within the city.

The Burnham plan for Manila had all the classic "City Beautiful" elements. A central core of government buildings formally framed an open mall as in the manner of Burnham's earlier design for Washington DC.

In Manila, the mall was oriented toward Manila Bay. The area in front of the old Luneta was extended to improve the perspective toward the water, and in the reclaimed area, a hotel (the Manila Hotel) and clubs (Army-Navy Club and the former Elk's Club, now the Museo Pambata), were proposed.

A broad parkway (Dewey Boulevard, now Roxas Boulevard) along the bay extended the band of green following the shore all the way to Cavite.

Wide avenues linked different sections of Manila. Taft Avenue, in its prime, extended with both of its sides shaded by stately acacia trees from the elegant Manila Post Office. With the same grace as the Champs Elysées in Paris, the avenue passed through the Mehan Garden and then through the back of the Legislative Building (now the National Museum).

Directly across the street stood the two buildings of the Philippine Normal School on either side of Ayala Boulevard. The Philippine General Hospital and the University of the Philippines complex around it followed. In later years, further toward the Pasay end of Taft Avenue rose De La Salle College, and behind it the Art Deco Rizal Memorial Complex.

Despite the odds that have included the heavy overhead tracks that the Light Rail Transit runs on, Taft Avenue has survived. Most of its heritage buildings are in various states of disrepair, but nevertheless still stand and continue to remain in service.

Plan remains

The skeleton of the plan remains. In fact, Manila's tarnished bright spots are Burnham spots: Roxas Boulevard and Rizal Park, the Taft Avenue axis and its magnificent American colonial architecture, Quezon Boulevard, Quezon Circle and the Batasang Pambansa area. Burnham's layout for Manila provides such good foundations which have proven difficult to override even with the chaotic development of Manila.

The exhibition, which runs until Sept. 26, provides the perfect material for us to take a new look at the Burnham plan for Manila, rediscover its urbane and people-friendly vision, and try to revive Manila as a city that is not only pleasant for its residents to live in, but as a city with the classic monumentality deserving of its status as the principal city of the Philippines.

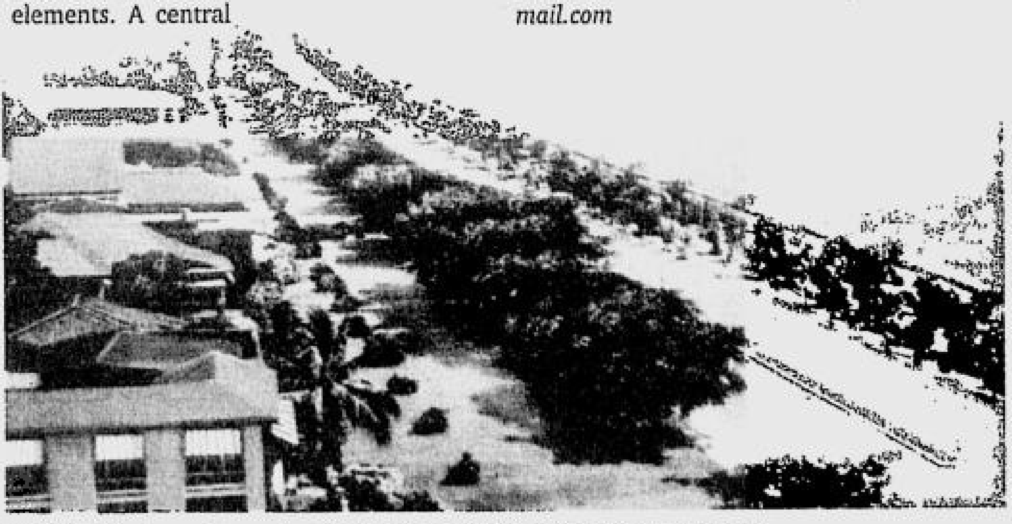
The exhibit notes, "The ultimate hallmark of Daniel Burnham's master plan is that it persisted in concept for so long. It survives with us today, in the spirit of a forever-uncompleted plan; much like the whole project of building the Filipino nation.

"Manila was supposed to be a City Beautiful, but remains an unfulfilled vision. The first step in planning for its future should be to understand and appreciate its colorful history."

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila is at Roxas Boulevard. Call 5230613.

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

> The Burnham plan is still sound and may serve as a framework to revive Manila as the principal city of the Philippines


DEWEY Boulevard was a tropical version of Chicago's Lakeshore Drive.

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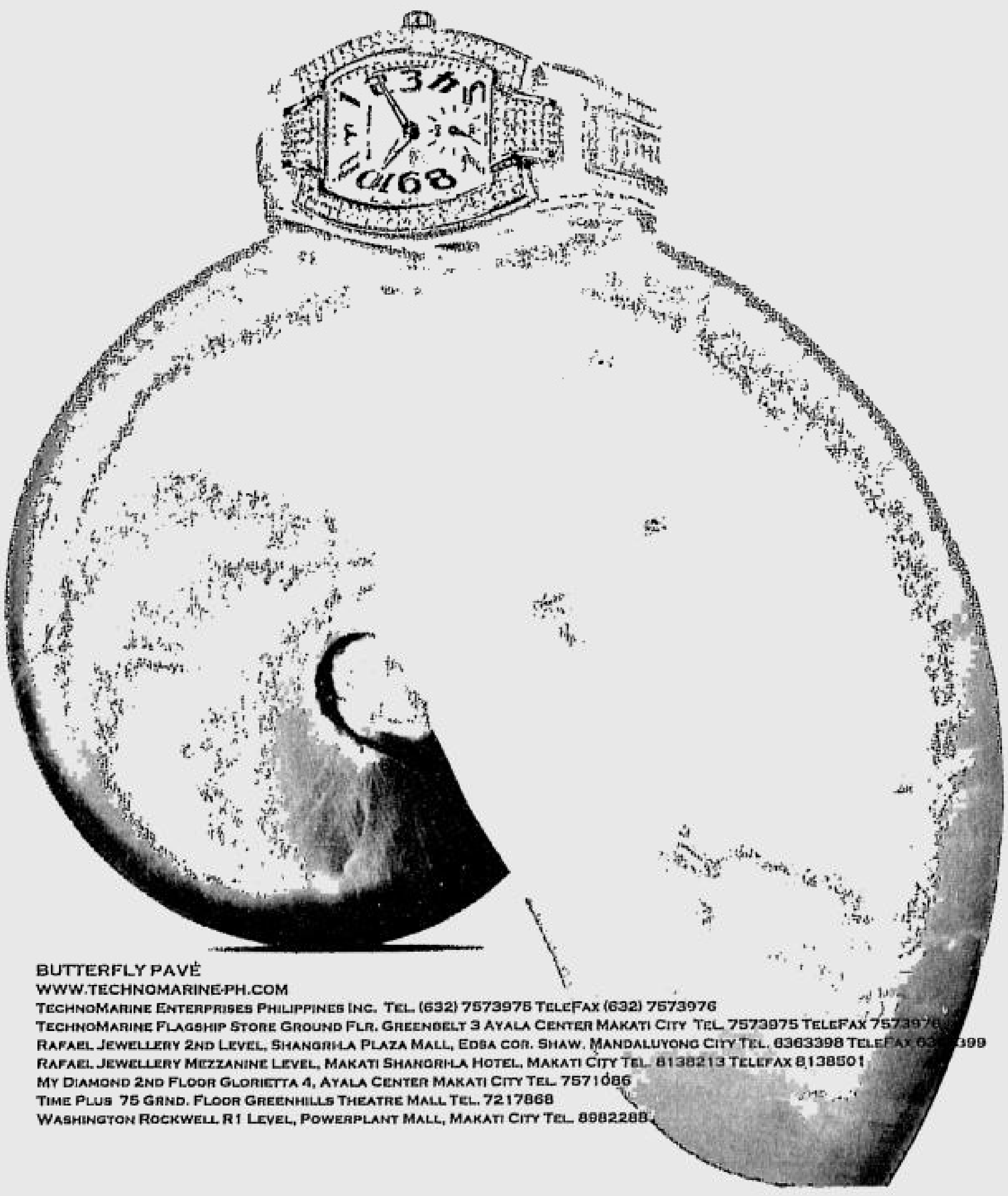

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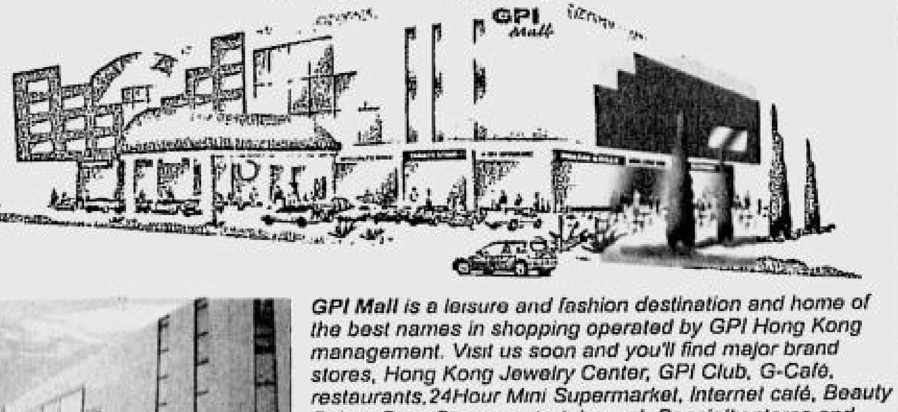

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LifeStyle

Tia Carrere and Lou Diamond Phillips stress the need to produce Filipino film and music that are of global quality

Global visions for Philippine cinema

ONE OF the most awaited events of this year's Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival was its film symposium dubbed "Global Visions for Philippine Cinema," held last Aug. 8 at Glorietta 4. The symposium dealt with different aspects of Philippine cinema past and present, especially on ways to bring Philippine cinema to the global level.

The panelists included Filipino-American Hollywood celebrities Tia Carrere, Lou Diamond Phillips and Fritz Friedman, writer/director Gene Cajayon, and UP film professor and film critic Gino Dormiendo. Each of them spoke about their personal visions for Philippine cinema. Makati Cinemanila Film Festival founder Tikoy Aguiluz served as moderator.

Friedman stressed the difference between advertising and publicity and talked about his work as senior vice president of worldwide publicity for Columbia TriStar Home Video.

Tia Carrere shared with the audience details of her career and her contribution to cracking the door open for other Filipino ac-

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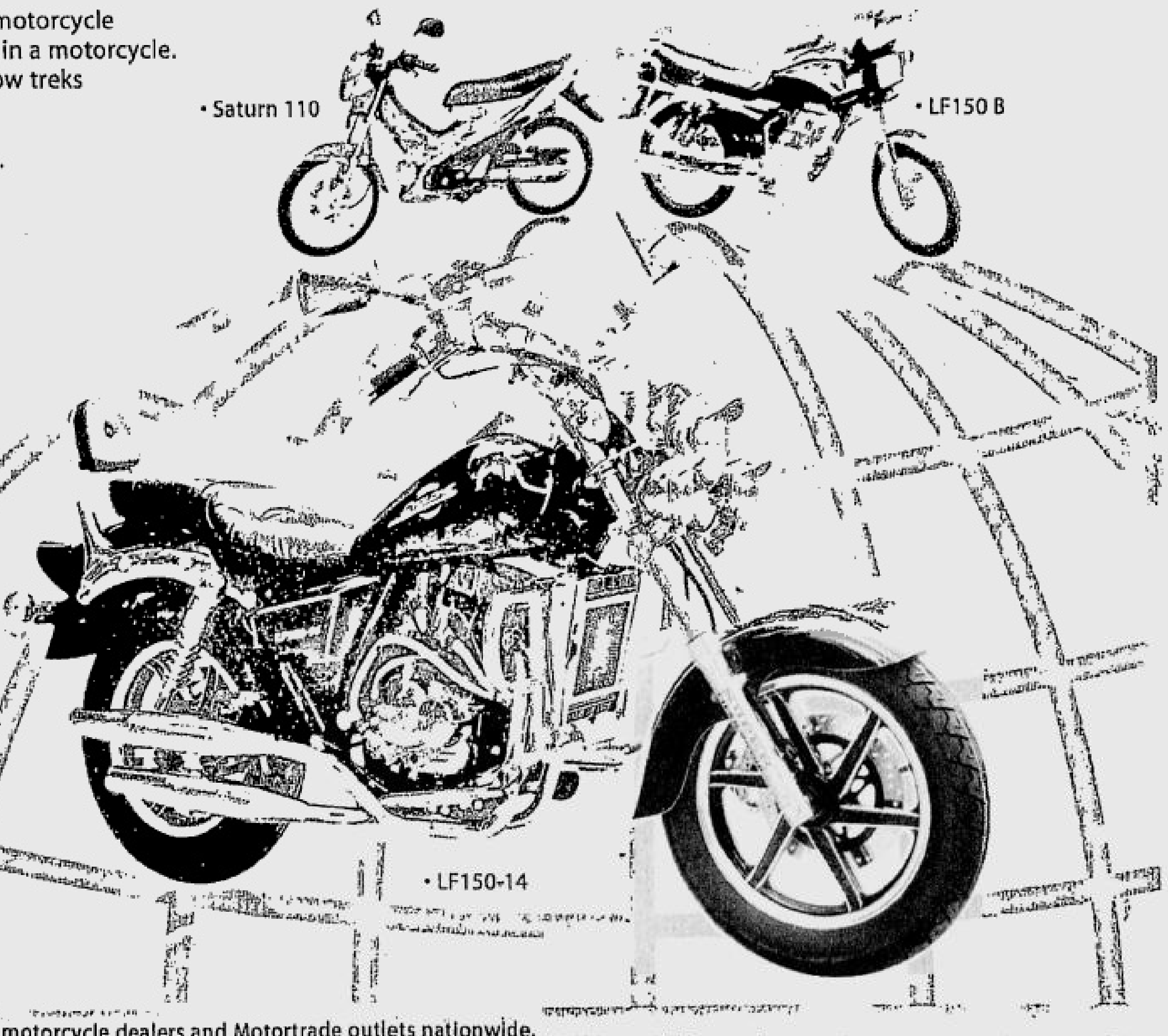

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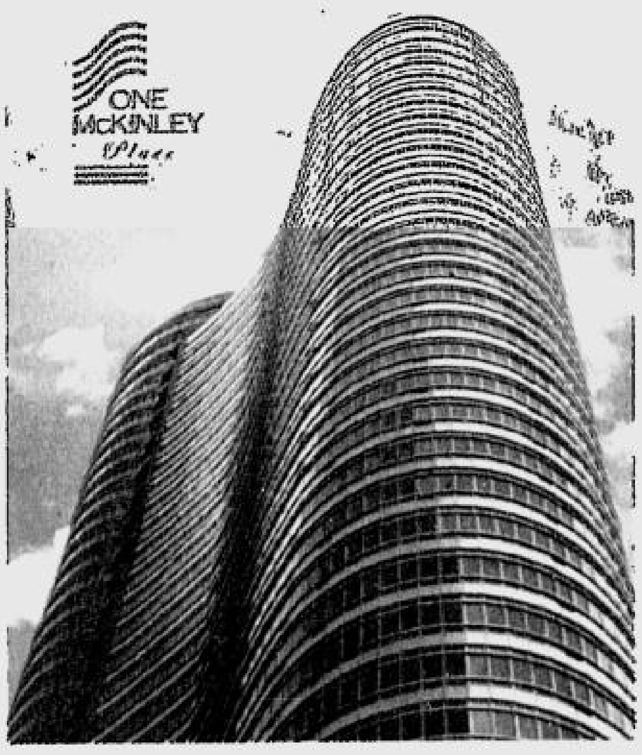

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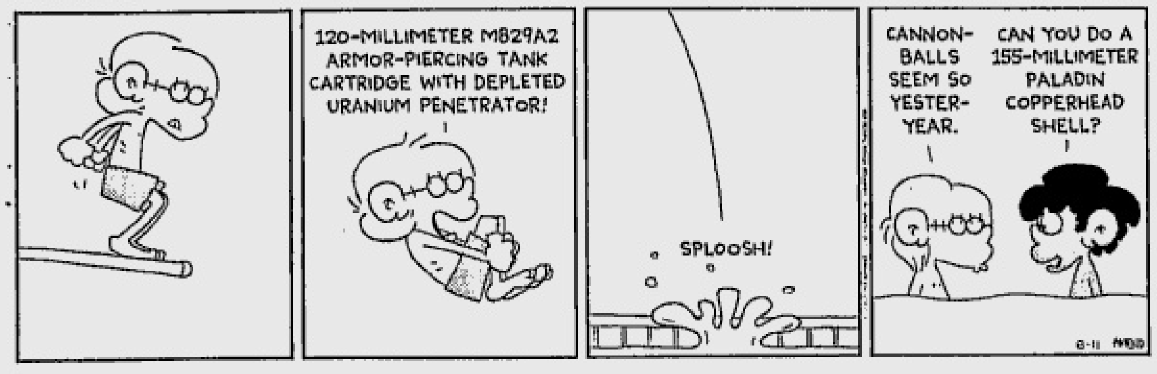
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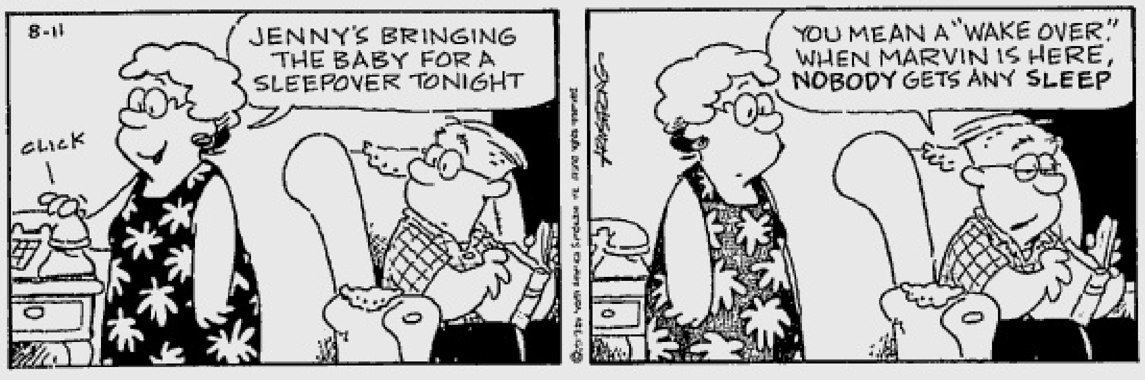
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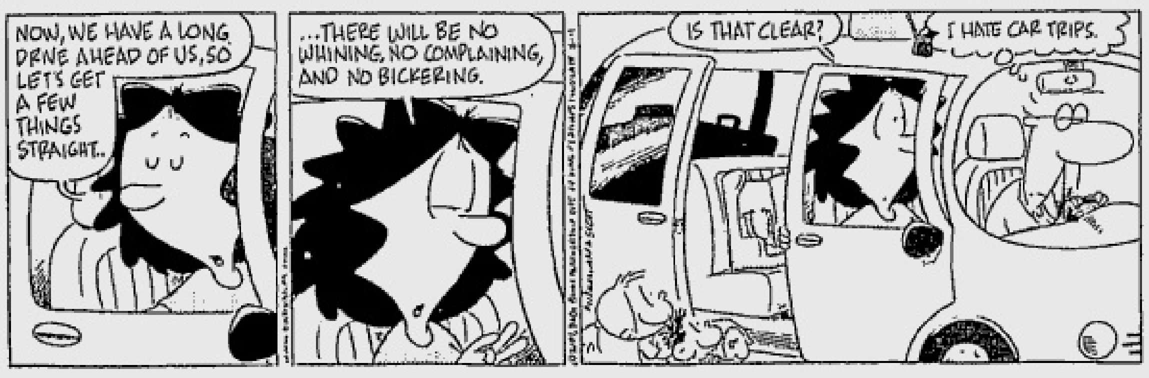
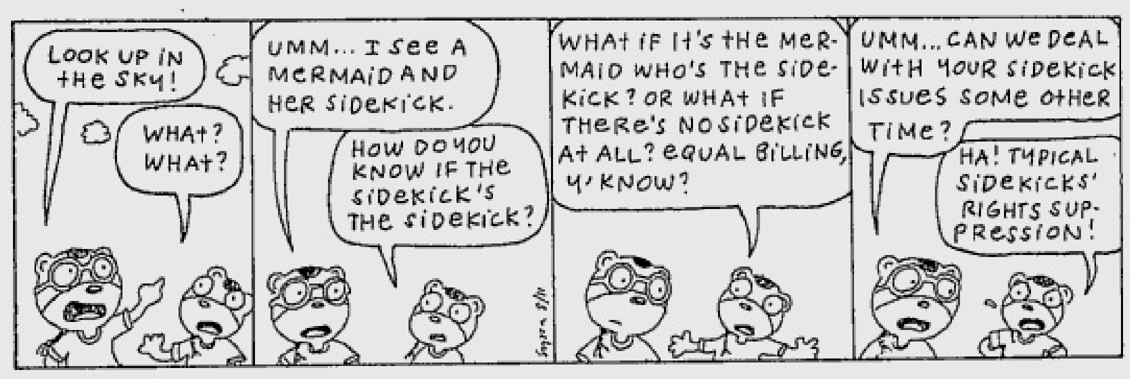

NOW, WE HAVE A LONG DRIVE AHEAD OF US, SO LET'S GET A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT..
...THERE WILL BE NO WHINING, NO COMPLAINING, AND NO BICKERING.
IS THAT CLEAR?
I HATE CAR TRIPS.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


LOOK UP IN THE SKY!
WHAT? WHAT?
UMM... I SEE A MERMAID AND HER SIDEKICK.
HOW DO YOU KNOW IF THE SIDEKICK'S THE SIDEKICK?
WHAT IF IT'S THE MERMAID WHO'S THE SIDEKICK? OR WHAT IF THERE'S NO SIDEKICK AT ALL? EQUAL BILLING, Y'KNOW?
UMM... CAN WE DEAL WITH YOUR SIDEKICK ISSUES SOME OTHER TIME?
HA! TYPICAL SIDEKICKS' RIGHTS SUPPRESSION!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are extremely powerful, both in your presence and through your communications to the world. You have a strong desire to get to the bottom of things and to reveal the truth. You are a natural teacher and always have something worthy to pass on to others. A social year with promising close relationships awaits you.
Birthdate of: Terry "Hulk" Hogan, wrestler/icon; Steve Wozniak, computer designer; Alex Haley, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Conversations with others are extremely powerful today. You have very definite ideas about what you want to achieve with respect to children, publishing, dealing with groups and the media.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): There's a good chance you will have an argument about politics or religion with someone today. However, you will definitely not lose. Your communication skills are fabulous today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be patient with partners and close friends today. Today's Full Moon is directly opposite your sign. Nevertheless, you are holding a winning hand.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You want to make important improvements at home. However, today's Full Moon might delay you, because a parent or someone in a position of authority disagrees with you. Wait awhile.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have great ideas about how to make improvements at work, but you need the funding, equipment and financial or practical support. This might stall you in the water—temporarily.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel intensely powerful about something, and you don't even know why. That's because your subconscious is jiggled right now by today's Full Moon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a rocky time for romance. The Full Moon makes people overly emotional and quick to make snap judgments. On top of this, you feel obsessed about something!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're determined to get your way at work today. This is not the time to do your Darth Vader impersonation. Today's Full Moon makes everybody a bit stressed out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might want to explore some kind of course or therapy to improve yourself in some way. You want to better your mind or have a more healthy body.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Someone might demand that you give something up or share something that you have. You don't have to do this. Listen to your own conscience and decide for yourself.

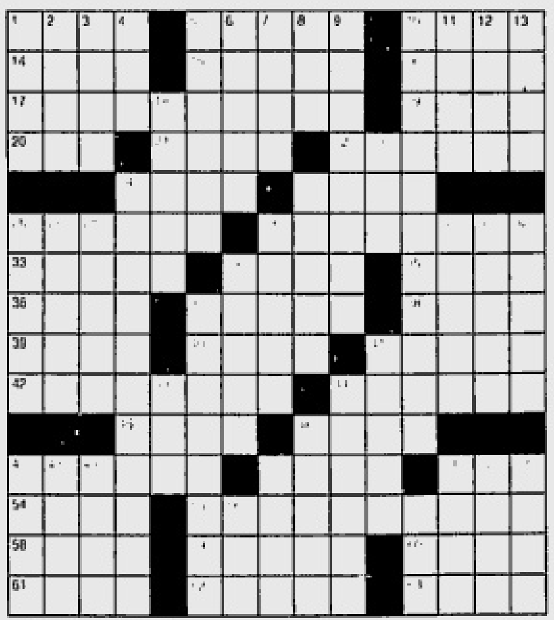
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel powerfully attracted to a friend today. This is definitely the day when friends can become more deeply involved. Is this what you want to do?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel unusually passionate about an issue at work today. You have better ideas about how to do something. Why not tell others about them? The big boss might agree with you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Pugilist Max
5 Head skin
10 Machinery parts
14 Land measure
15 Surgical beam
16 Yoked pair
17 Fabric dessert?
19 Turner or Louise
20 Farm layer
21 Simians
22 Arranges properly
24 Mr. Mertz
25 Missile shelter
26 Climbed
29 Observatory in Texas
33 Tibetan monks
34 Indira's garb
35 Aloha in Genoa
36 Press
37 San ___, CA
38 BB supply
39 Small, mountain lake
40 Freshly
41 Express scorn
42 Church tops
44 Commuters
45 Goneril's father
46 Slim and muscular
47 Catch sight of
50 Bowling alley
51 Tense beginning?
54 Lamb's pen name
55 Fabric entree?
58 Without spring or curl
59 Really steamed
60 Art Deco designer
61 "Bus Stop" dramatist
62 Actor Lew
63 Robert Stack TV role

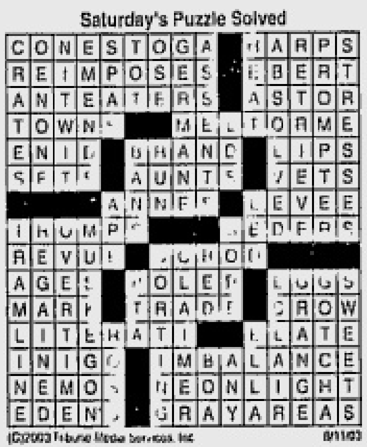
DOWN
1 "Mass in B Minor" composer
2 Persistent pain
3 Yeats' isle
4 Ring off.
5 Inclined
6 Like rattan furniture
7 Poisonous snakes
8 Floral necklace
9 Spanish garrison
10 Fabric confection?
11 Allies' WWII opponent
12 Bill of fare
13 Lose one's cool
18 Paying passengers
23 "Evil Woman" rock grp.
24 Fabric breakfast?
25 Spiral pin
26 Skirt openings
27 Jeweler's measure
28 Luigi's love
29 Australian pals
30 __ Semple McPherson
31 More inadequate
32 Cabinet parts
34 More rational
37 Location of Kuala Lumpur
41 Fathers
43 According to
44 Removes lather
46 Fritter away
47 Cold-cut palace
48 Zeal
49 Lift one's voice
50 Baloney maker?
51 Pierre's father
52 Curses!
53 Just manages
56 Sardonic
57 Sawbuck



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

8/11/03

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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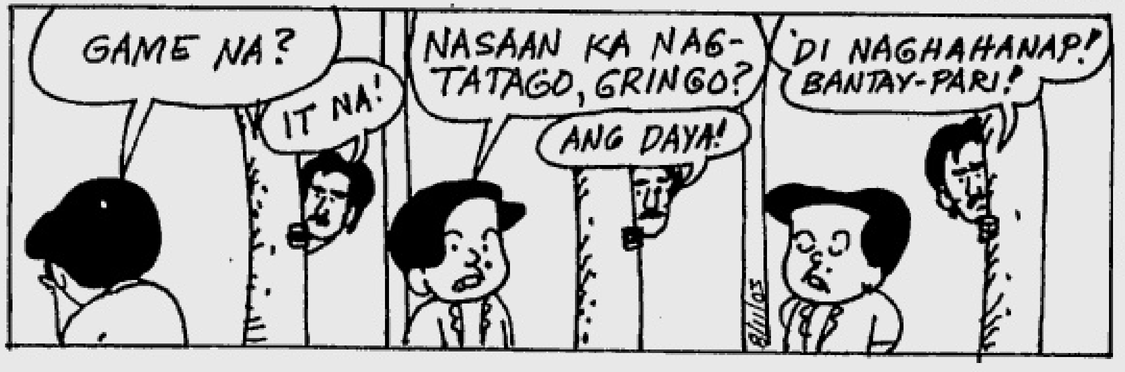
8/11/03

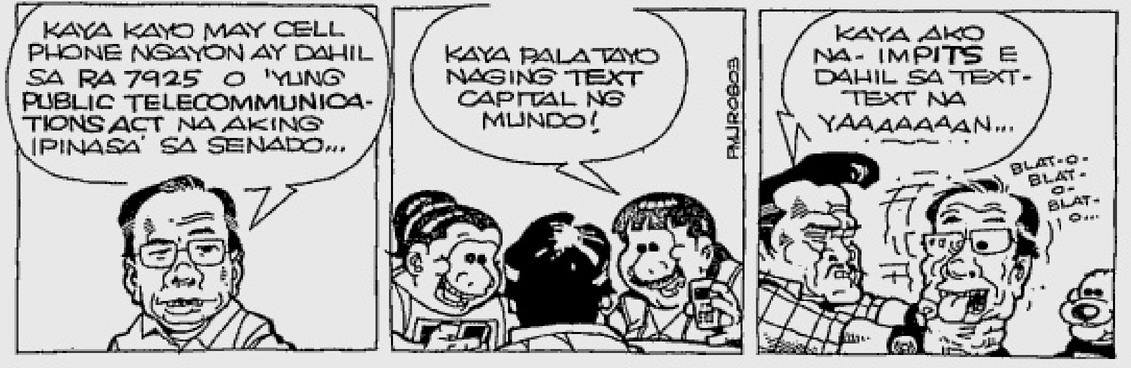
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GAME NA?
IT NA!
NASAAN KA NAGTATAGO, GRINGO?
ANG DAYA!
'DI NAGHAHANAP! BANTAY-PARI!
8/11/03

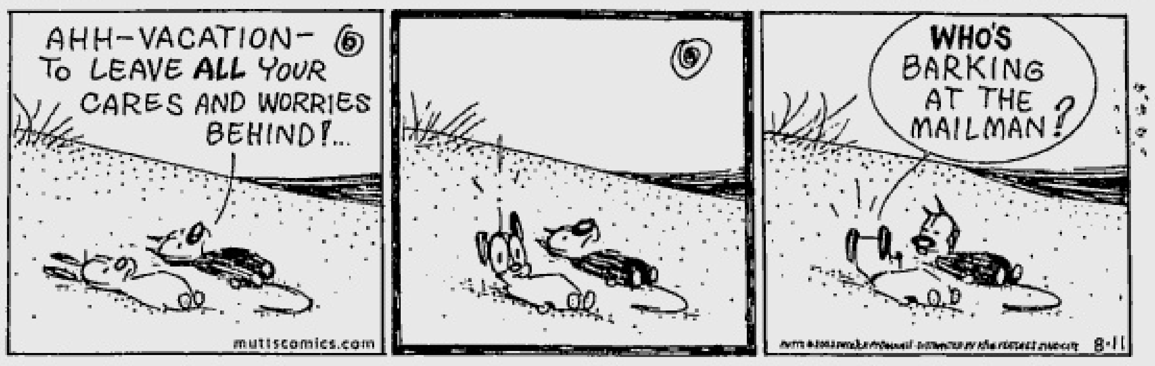
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAYA KAYO MAY CELL PHONE NGAYON AY DAHIL SA RA 7925 O 'YUNG PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT NA AKING IPINASA SA SENADO...
KAYA PALA TAYO NAGING TEXT CAPITAL NG MUNDO!
PMJR0803
KAYA AKO NA-IMPITS E DAHIL SA TEXT-TEXT NA YAAAAAAAN...
BLAT-O-BLAT-O-BLAT-O...

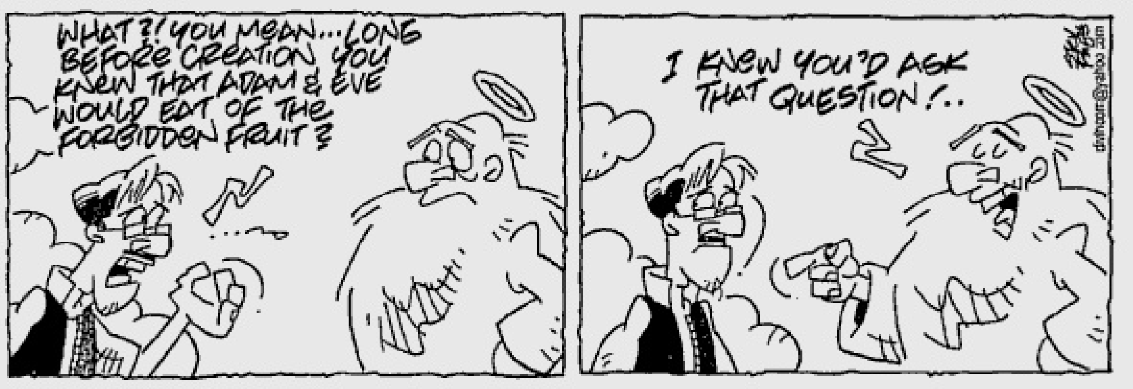
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AHH-VACATION- TO LEAVE ALL YOUR CARES AND WORRIES BEHIND!...
WHO'S BARKING AT THE MAILMAN?
muttscomics.com
8-11

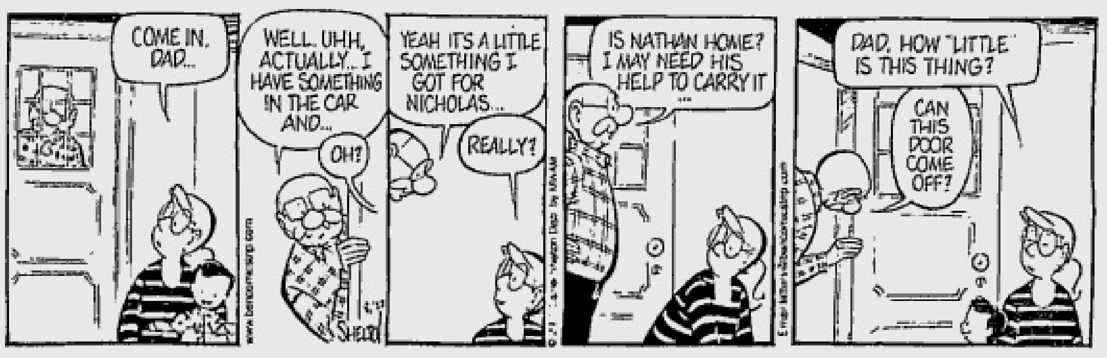
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHAT?! YOU MEAN... LONG BEFORE CREATION YOU KNEW THAT ADAM & EVE WOULD EAT OF THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT?
I KNEW YOU'D ASK THAT QUESTION!..

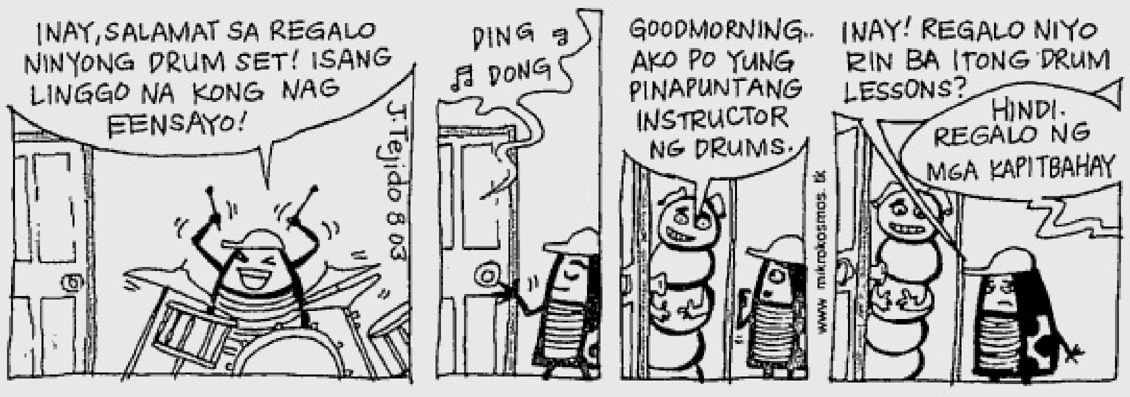
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


COME IN, DAD...
WELL, UHH, ACTUALLY... I HAVE SOMETHING IN THE CAR AND...
OH?
YEAH IT'S A LITTLE SOMETHING I GOT FOR NICHOLAS...
REALLY?
IS NATHAN HOME? I MAY NEED HIS HELP TO CARRY IT ...
DAD, HOW "LITTLE" IS THIS THING?
CAN THIS DOOR COME OFF?

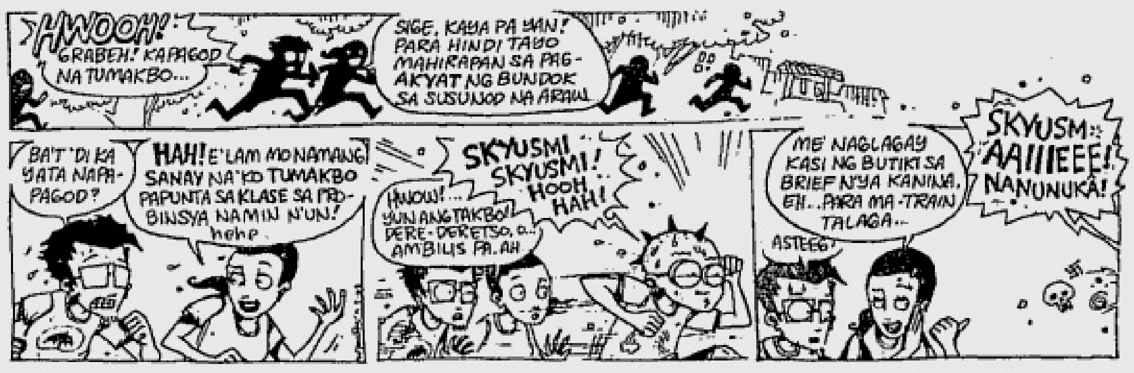
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, SALAMAT SA REGALO NINYONG DRUM SET! ISANG LINGGO NA KONG NAG EENSAYO!
J. Tejido 8 03
DING DONG
GOODMORNING.. AKO PO YUNG PINAPUNTANG INSTRUCTOR NG DRUMS.
www.mikrokosmos.tk
INAY! REGALO NIYO RIN BA ITONG DRUM LESSONS?
HINDI. REGALO NG MGA KAPITBAHAY

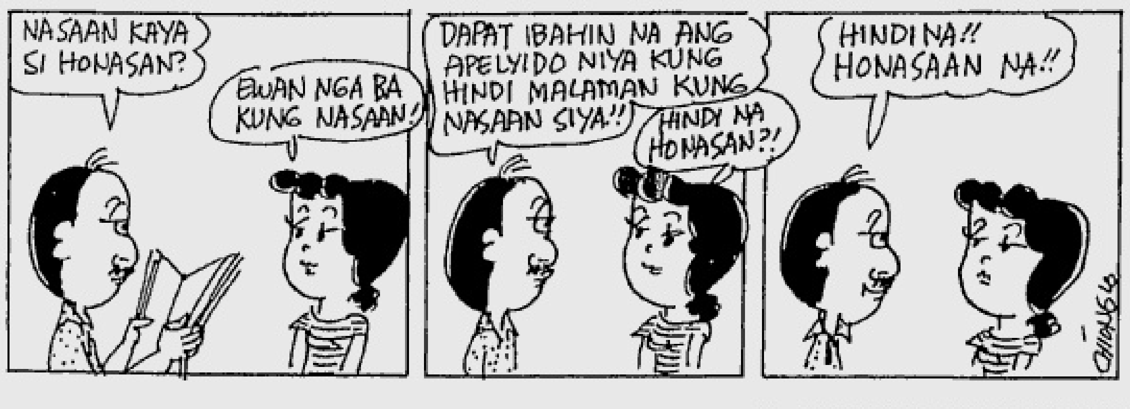
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH! GRABEH! KAPAGOD NA TUMAKBO...
SIGE, KAYA PA YAN! PARA HINDI TAYO MAHIRAPAN SA PAG-AKYAT NG BUNDOK SA SUSUNOD NA ARAW.
BAT 'DI KA YATA NAPAPAGOD?
HAH! E'LAM MO NAMANG SANAY NA'KO TUMAKBO PAPUNTA SA KLASE SA PROBINSYA NAMIN N'UN! hehe
SKYUSMI SKYUSMI! HOOH HAH!
HWOW!... YUN ANG TAKBO! DERE-DERETSO, O.. AMBILIS PA. AH
ME' NAGLAGAY KASI NG BUTIKI SA BRIEF N'YA KANINA, EH.. PARA MA-TRAIN TALAGA..
ASTEEG!
SKYUSM!: AAIIIEEE! NANUNUKA!

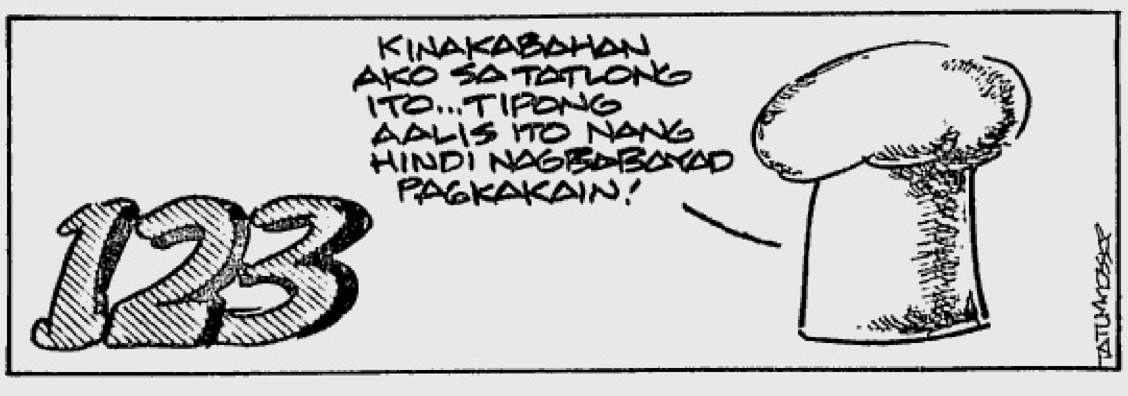
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NASAAN KAYA SI HONASAN?
EWAN NGA BA KUNG NASAAN!
DAPAT IBAHIN NA ANG APELYIDO NIYA KUNG HINDI MALAMAN KUNG NASAAN SIYA!!
HINDI NA HONASAN?!
HINDI NA!! HONASAAN NA!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KINAKABAHAN AKO SA TATLONG ITO... TIPONG AALIS ITO NANG HINDI NAGBABAYAD PAGKAKAIN!
123
TATUM

How 'Honk' beat 'Lion King'

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

THREE years ago, his parents wanted to accompany him to the Olivier Awards, the most prestigious awards in the British theater industry. After all, his musical "Honk!," a modern-day retelling of the "Ugly Duckling," was nominated for Best New Musical for 2000. It had also played in the Royal National Theater, a first for any British musical. Not even a legend like Andrew Lloyd Webber could make that claim. To date, only American imports like Stephen Sondheim and Rodgers and Hammerstein reliables played in the venerable theater.

But "Honk!" writer Anthony Drewe merely smiled and told his mother to stay home. His competition, after all, was another US import, and a popular mega-musical at that: Disney's blockbuster hit "The Lion King."

Not even when his creative partner, musical composer George Stiles, asked him to have a speech prepared "in the event of a miracle," did he budge. "I had put my money on 'Lion King,'" attests Drewe.

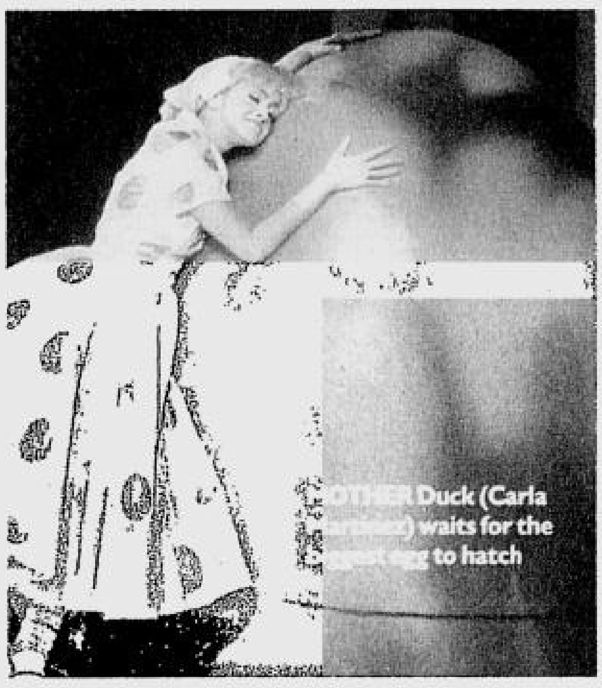
But "Honk!'s" name was read from the envelope, and Drewe heard her mother scream in delight from the audience rafters. The British press went to town about the "Duck who beat the Lion." The best congratulatory remarks came from lyricist Tim Rice, one of the creators of "Lion King." "Well done!" Rice's telegraph wrote. "I'm glad that a real musical won!"

In retrospect, Drewe still remains modest about his upset victory. "[The British judges] were swept by a sense of patriotism," he opines. Prod him a little bit, and he gives a more analytical assessment.

Not living up

"'Lion King' was a huge spectacle, the first 10 minutes were fantastic," he says, the enthusiasm in his voice evident. "But it was a series of brilliant ideas connected by a very rough sea. The best showstopper happened in the first scene. What follows doesn't quite live up to what has been promised."

In contrast, he says, "'Honk!' sets up the action on its own terms." While not lacking in its own vibrant colors and fascinating range of talking animals, including a predator street cat and a loving mother duck, "Honk!'s" appeal is said to lie in the strength of its script and the interaction of its characters.


OTHER Duck (Carla [illegible]) waits for the [illegible] egg to hatch

Drewe and Stiles went back to the original Hans Christian Andersen fable, but added two original characters: the villainous Tom Cat bent on having the Ugly Duckling for dinner, and the cheerful, if physically repulsive Frog, who has learned to be happy about his appearance.

The creative team also added a twist to the ending. Instead of the handsome-Swan-cum-grown-Ugly leaving for better shores with the Swan Princess and her people, the two lovely birds return to the small pond where Ugly had been persecuted by his sibling ducks and other assorted fowl.

"I had wanted the pond to be multicultural," says Drewe, whose own interracial experiences started when he befriended an Indian boy in his British school at the age of 11. His two sisters are married to a Pakistani and a Belgian.

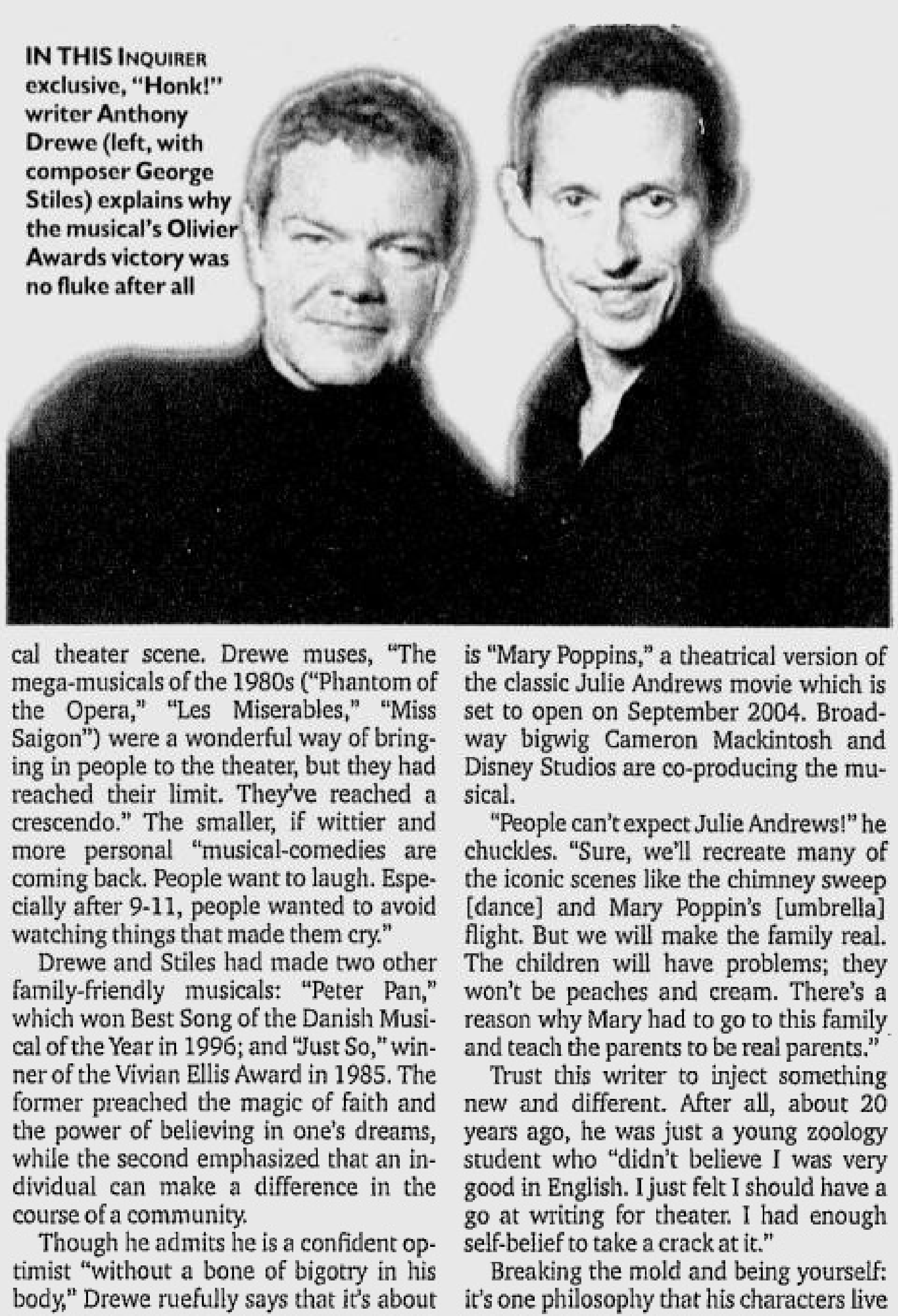
But then again, the whole message of "Honk!" is about embracing one's individuality and making room for racial, social, sexual, and cultural differences. Practicing what he preaches, Drewe, unlike most writers, does not insist that all productions follow the original to the letter. He encourages them to come up with their own approaches, adapting the material to their own cultural or national settings. "As far as the British sensibilities in the script are concerned, find the equivalent in your country."

Thus, in the Manila production, one character yells out a funny tribute to Kenny Rogers, instead of the UK's Colonel Sanders. Trumpets director Chari Arespacochaga had originally wanted to substitute tropical storms in place of the blizzard that imprisoned the cat villain yet helped in Ugly's dramatic transformation.

A South African production played the racial card, making Ugly the only black child in a family of Caucasians.

One New York version had a Jewish director setting the pond in a Holocaust museum. "It was a study of minorities and oppression," grins Drewe wryly. "But it was too dark for my taste."

Trumpets' production of "Honk!" will be running at the Meralco Theater until Sept. 7. Drewe dropped by the first weekend to give cast and crew a boost in the arm. The Manila version is the musical's 304th production since the play first opened at the Watermill Theater, Newberry, in 1993. It has since played in the USA, Denmark, France, Singapore, Japan, Switzerland and Holland.


IN THIS INQUIRER exclusive, "Honk!" writer Anthony Drewe (left, with composer George Stiles) explains why the musical's Olivier Awards victory was no fluke after all

New trend

"Honk!'s" popularity may very well signal a new trend in the international musical theater scene. Drewe muses, "The mega-musicals of the 1980s ("Phantom of the Opera," "Les Miserables," "Miss Saigon") were a wonderful way of bringing in people to the theater, but they had reached their limit. They've reached a crescendo." The smaller, if wittier and more personal "musical-comedies are coming back. People want to laugh. Especially after 9-11, people wanted to avoid watching things that made them cry."

Drewe and Stiles had made two other family-friendly musicals: "Peter Pan," which won Best Song of the Danish Musical of the Year in 1996; and "Just So," winner of the Vivian Ellis Award in 1985. The former preached the magic of faith and the power of believing in one's dreams, while the second emphasized that an individual can make a difference in the course of a community.

Though he admits he is a confident optimist "without a bone of bigotry in his body," Drewe ruefully says that it's about time he move beyond the general patronage rating. One musical in the pipeline, in fact, is a love story set in the red light district.

Yet his most promising project to date is "Mary Poppins," a theatrical version of the classic Julie Andrews movie which is set to open on September 2004. Broadway bigwig Cameron Mackintosh and Disney Studios are co-producing the musical.

"People can't expect Julie Andrews!" he chuckles. "Sure, we'll recreate many of the iconic scenes like the chimney sweep [dance] and Mary Poppin's [umbrella] flight. But we will make the family real. The children will have problems; they won't be peaches and cream. There's a reason why Mary had to go to this family and teach the parents to be real parents."

Trust this writer to inject something new and different. After all, about 20 years ago, he was just a young zoology student who "didn't believe I was very good in English. I just felt I should have a go at writing for theater. I had enough self-belief to take a crack at it."

Breaking the mold and being yourself: it's one philosophy that his characters live by, especially the Ugly Duckling.

Trumpets' production of "Honk!" will run at the Meralco Theater until Sept. 7. Call 633-5010 or 891-5610.

'Dalitext' electronic poetry winners named

CATALINO Buenviaje and Joel Costa Malabanan are the *Text Makata ng Linggo* in the first week of the Dalitext poetry writing contest. Consolation winners are Erwin Lareza, Michael Sanchez, Noi Cruz, JC Zozobrado, Leonardo dela Cruz, Ma. Luna Lopez, Sheena Opulencia and Emmanuel C. Quinog.

"The *daliteros* are apparently sensitive to current national events as they have alluded to them in their poems," said National Artist Virgilio S. Almario, chairman of the board of judges. "Many people tackle the significance of the recent adventurism in Oakwood while several pieces talk about the suffering of Filipino migrant workers."

Napakasarap pakinggan,
"mahal ko ang aking bayan."
Mas sarap maulinigang
ginagawa ang naturan.

C. Buenviaje

Langgam, langgam, kagatin mo,
ang singit ng politiko,
asam, asam, aming boto
pag nanalo, hustay-pondo!

J.C. Malabanan

Bumagyo man ng problema
harurot man ang kudeta,
kapos man tayo sa glorya,
kapit ka lang Luzviminda!

E. Lareza

Dampa nating gumigiray
lagyan ta ng mga suhay
upang mas maging matibay
katulad ng bayang mahal.

M. Sanchez

The contest aims to popularize and revitalize one of the country's oldest forms of poetry through modern technology. The *dalit* is a short poem, composed of four versified rhyming lines. Each line consists of eight syllables, expressing a complete thought.

Dalitext entries must be written in Filipino and must express patriotism. Contestants must text their entries to (0920) 8367541 or (0918) 5311669. Entries must have the name of the author and sent not later than 5 p.m. every Friday.

Every week of August, judges will pick two winners who will receive P5,000 each. Eight consolation prizes of P2,000 each will also be awarded.

Dalitext is sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts with the Filipinas Institute of Translation, Inc., Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas and the UP Institute of Creative Writing.

Call Salvador "Badong" Biglaen at 9221830 or NCCA at 5272192.

Sunico and Zuniega duel in rare piano concert

By Ophelia A. Dimalanta
Contributor

THE MAESTRO Filipino duo piano concert last July 31 at Philamlife Auditorium was an adventure not only of the senses but of the spirit as well. The performance was part of the "Chords on Canvas" piano concert-art exhibit of the Far East Broadcasting Company, the Christian station, in celebration of its 55th year. The duo concert featured Raul Sunico and J.Greg Zuniega.

Piano duos are not necessarily more challenging than solo performances, but they require the strictest timing and synchronicity and the utmost discipline so as to achieve perfect harmony and complementarity.

The repertoire was not particularly highbrow and even such masters as Bach, Mozart and Rachmaninoff were represented by works that rang quite familiar to the already initiated ear. In fact, the whole musical fare was one not only quite accessible but truly pleasurable to all.

The initial offering was Bach's radiantly arching sacred composition "Mortify Us by Your Grace" and that soulful Grovan-popularized "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," a sweetly flowing exaltation, a chorale movement from Cantata no. 147. Then followed Mozart's "Larghetto" and "Allegro in E. Flat." The Mozartian springwaters might appear disconcertingly cool, but these light pieces were relatively heart-warming once we got the hang of trying to listen to what the composer was saying.

Khachaturian's "Lesginska," not very popular to concertgoers, unexpectedly impressed in spite of its modern idiom, lively rhythmic animation and strong color.

There is a special appeal in music that depicts or evokes exotic places. Chabrier's "Espana Rhapsody" particularly regaled the audience, Russian-influenced yet remaining distinctively Gallic in its lucidity and vibrancy.

Borodin's "Polovtsian Dances" from his popular "Prince Igor" exhibited the typically Russian throbbing vitality. Borodin was known to have best carried the Glinka tradition of nationalism, although this particular piece carried as well a tone of exoticism.

The intermission was followed by Lutos-lawski's "Variations on a Theme by Paganini" and Ryan Cayabyab's arrangements of Philippine folk music: *Pahilaga*, the sprightly *Pamulinawen* and the plaintive *Malinac Lay Labi*—a welcome swing closer to our roots, the arranger exciting the audience with exquisite and distinctly modern chords, the cross-pulls of delicately meshed rhythms.

The finale was fittingly Rachmaninoff's Suite no. 2 in C minor, Op.17; Introduction, Waltz, Romance, Tarantella. Nothing quite like a Rachmaninoff to challenge the ingenuity of the pianists., down to the very last resplendent chords.

For encore, the pianists played another Cayabyab oeuvre, a medley of

J.GREG Zuniega

RAUL Sunico

OPM's that brought the house down. Finally, the immortal and highly popular "Blue Danube Waltz" by waltz king Strauss. One had never thought that this simple piece of one's early piano-playing days could be that complicated.

Sunico, the dean of the UST Conservatory of Music, was the seasoned performer, composed, most confident, as his supple and agile fingers caressed the keys almost effortlessly, especially in the flowing runs, gliding and playfully marauding by turns, discernible when he would switch to Piano One.

Maestro Zuniega, on the other hand, displayed a youthful exuberance balanced by a consistently brilliant execution, playing up to the works' demanding kaleidoscope of tonal color, pure energy and passion coaxed out of the keys, his musical skill and stance holding dominion.

Assuredly, we left the auditorium proud and happy to have been part of the experience, a hymn of praise to God, the Master Artist, and we stepped out of the hall feeling amply blessed and infinitely grateful

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ENTERTAINERS GET ARTISTIC
Entertainment-artists belonging to the Film Artists Group will exhibit their visual works in "Artists as Artists," which opens on Aug. 13 at the Ayala Museum. A collaboration between the museum and the Food & Art Galerie (12F GT Tower, cor. Ayala Ave. and HV de la Costa St.). Participating artists are (in photo) Cris Villanueva, Rachel Lobanco, Lani Lobanco, Evangeline Pascual, Nadia Montenegro, Maribel Lopez and Jao Mapa. Also participating are Baron Geisler, Joey de Leon, Victor Wood, Dranreb Belleza, Cesar Montano, Rommel Montano, Jeffrey Quizon, Snooky Serna, Mark Aquino, Al Quinn and Danny Zialcita, and the late Vic Vargas.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Global visions...

From page E1

tors trying their luck in Hollywood. She also talked about the importance of getting people around the world to sit up and take notice of Filipino talent by creating Philippine music and films that are of a global quality.

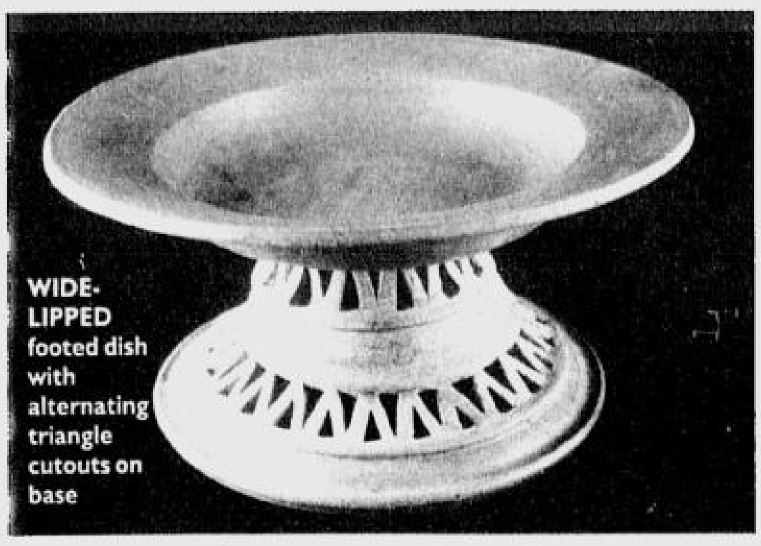
Lou Diamond Phillips then gave a passionate account of his dream of becoming an actor. He stressed how important it is to always follow your heart and to not give up on your dreams.

Writer/director Gene Cajayon talked about his journey to making his film "The Debut," which officially opened this year's Makati Cinemanila Film Festival last Aug. 7 at OnStage Greenbelt. He talked about the effects of growing up in the US surrounded by Americans that he couldn't identify with and not seeing Filipinos represented in the media. He also stressed the importance of doing something to bring focus on the Filipino on a global level.

Film teacher and critic Gino Dormiendo talked about the limitless talent of Filipino actors and filmmakers and how there should be more efforts to get them recognized worldwide.

In the open forum, tackled were the role of government in uplifting the Philippine film industry and ways for new filmmakers to get their work noticed globally.

The 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival is showing 80 films from 30 countries until Aug. 24 at Greenbelt cinemas.



WIDE-LIPPED footed dish with alternating triangle cutouts on base

Primitive aesthetics in ancient pottery

By Constantino C. Tejero

SECONDARY burial jar with human face on two sides of cover

PHILIPPINE pottery seems to be created more for functionality than aesthetics. Although local manufacture is widespread, it hasn't quite gone beyond the *palayok* of ancient times.

"While the precise origins of pottery-making in the Philippines remain unclear, some scholars believe that local manufacture may have been introduced from Vietnam as early as the fifth millennium BC," says Ayala Museum director Florina Capistrano-Baker in her foreword to the catalogue of an ongoing exhibit.

Presented by Ayala Museum in cooperation with the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines, "Pang-alay: Ritual Pottery in Ancient Philippines" is carefully curated by former OCSP president Cynthia Ongpin Valdes.

This is native earthenware, nearly 200 pieces of low-fired ceramics, mostly from the Metal Age. For space constraint, however, only about 40 are being displayed until Aug. 16 in the museum's Rear Gallery.

As Valdes says in the catalogue's introduction, these ritual vessels found all over the archipelago were used by our ancestors for *pang-alay* (offering).

They could have been containers for food offering placed on the surface of grave sites during burial or ritual revisits to the dead. They could also have been jars used to contain the body of the dead (primary burial), or to keep the bones after ritual cleansing (secondary burial).

"These jars are also regarded as offertory vessels," notes Valdes. "In a sense, they are offerings by the living to their ancestors."

The burial jars stand out among the pots, cups, goblets, trays, dishes, bowls, basins, miniature figures, jarlets. While these pieces are, indeed, functional, they actually possess a primitive aesthetics.

Forms and texture

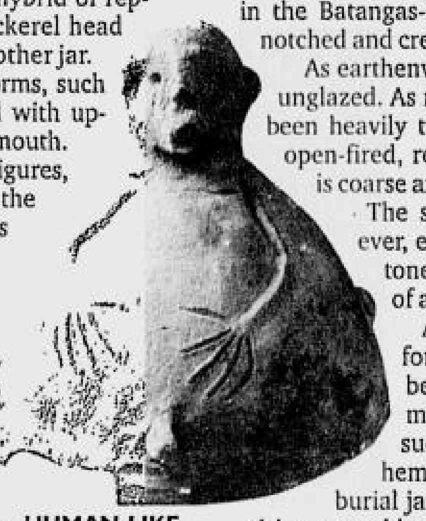
Details depict animal forms, such as those forming the bodies of vessels: a goat, an unidentifiable beast with long neck and tail, and a horned animal. The handle of a jar's cover is shaped like a hybrid of reptile and canine, while a cockerel head could be a vignette from another jar.

There are also atypical forms, such as an oil lamp and a vessel with upturned handles and everted mouth.

Eerie are the humanlike figures, which could be images of the dead or the *anitos*, used as amulets or charms or to adorn the covers of burial jars.

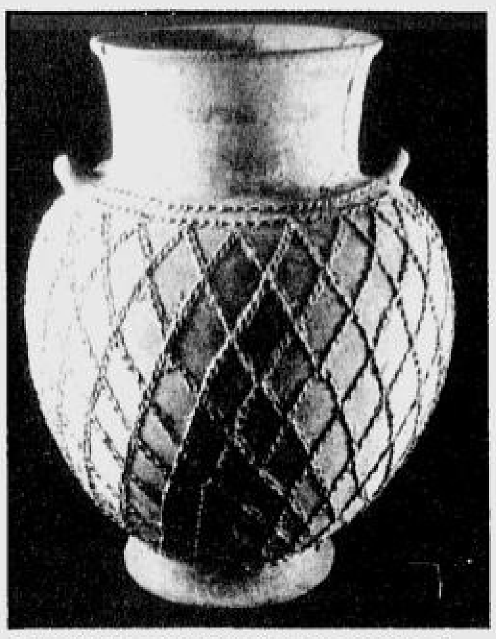
Most of these are humanlike heads with open or gouged mouths, extended ears, perforated scalps, sometimes painted with red hematite or black pigment.

Some have well-defined features, while others have globular bodies with breasts. There's even one shaped like a torso of a man with arms akimbo.



HUMAN-LIKE figure atop a globular body

Most mysterious are the mammary-form vessels, complete with representation of nipples, one with as many as 14. What were they for? This is a fertility symbol, when these are supposed to be funerary objects.



JAR with rope applique in a crosshatched pattern

These are not all containers, however. Included in the exhibit is a 15th-century necklace of spindle whorls and net sinkers, found in the Batangas-Laguna area. There are notched and crescent pendants.

As earthenware goes, the pieces are unglazed. As noted by Valdes, clay has been heavily tempered with sand and open-fired, resulting in ceramics that is coarse and heavy.

The surface roughness, however, enhances the lovely earth tones, and adds to that sense of antiquity.

And many of these rough forms have been richly embellished with exquisite motifs and delicate details, such as the scrolls of red hematite on a secondary-burial jar, or the ribbing and incisions on goblets.

Function and design

"Ritual vessels might have been pots and ordinary objects used in daily life," says Valdes. "However, they were imbued with a ritual function by the mere act of leaving them on the ground to contain offerings of food and drink. This practice eventually led to the use of more elaborate designs such as mystical motifs. Vessels either became finer and more delicate, or mightier and more exuberant in shape and form."

A wide-lipped, footed dish has alternating triangle cutouts on its base. A conical four-eared jar has vertical striations. Two globular pots have card marks on their bodies. A few wide-mouthed vessels have studs and notches.

Some bowls have impressed triangles, punched holes, geometric perforations. Several carinated and angled vessels have incised scrolls, sunbursts, chevrons.

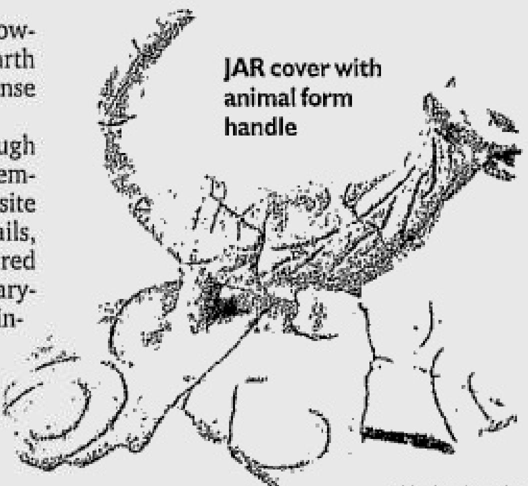
A jar found in Batangas has a rope applique in a crosshatched pattern. A softly lobed globular cup has been inlaid with ceramic shards.

The exhibit can be fully appreciated when we consider that this is pottery locally made in ancient times

Capistrano-Baker elaborates on the significance of this exhibit: "While there is an abundance of publications on Oriental export ceramics excavated in the Philippines, there is ironically a dearth of research and published material on locally manufactured pottery. Exhibitions on the topic are similarly rare.

"This exhibition gathers for the first time notable objects from several private collections, demonstrating the wealth of forms and techniques used in manufacturing these ritual vessels."

This then is our primal art, art that is truly our own.



JAR cover with animal form handle

CATALOGUE PHOTOS BY JOEY DE VERA

The double life of Ramoncito Ocampo Cruz

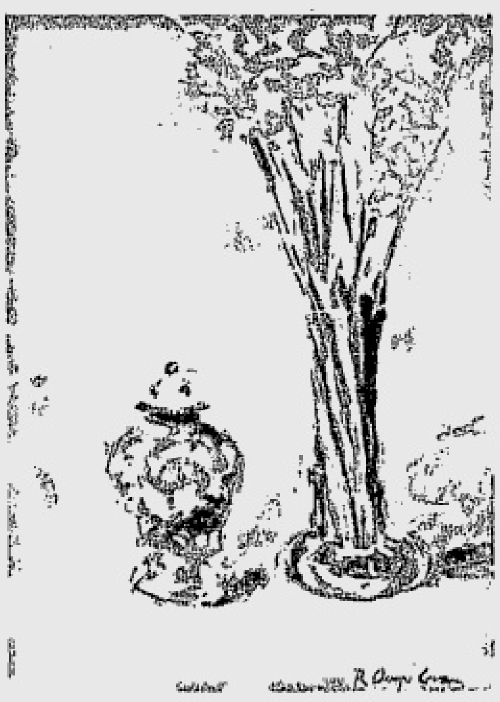
By Alya B. Honasan

THERE'S not much conflict between his two lives as a businessman and a painter, says the artist.

THE ENTREPRENEUR-ARTIST is no longer an unusual creature in today's world of multitasking and multiple hats. More than just a hobby or a recreational pastime, however, art for Ramoncito Ocampo Cruz is an inheritance, as is the entrepreneurial streak.

"My father was a portrait painter before he became a businessman," recounts Cruz. "He sent his five children to high school and college on his earnings as an artist." Indeed, Remigio Katindig Cruz had moved to Cagayan de Oro to put up a painting studio in 1955, but ended up becoming a restaurateur, opening the Roadside Café and the Plaza Lunch while still painting portraits of the city's elite on the side. "He was the Larry Cruz of that time," Cruz says of his parent, who still plays a weekly round of golf at age 82.

Cruz the younger actually began painting as early as high school and graduated with a fine arts degree from the University of Santo Tomas in 1976. "My father never interfered with what we wanted to do, but I'm sure he was happy with my decision," Cruz recalls. The same year, Cruz organized a show called "Hidden Lines" along with fellow fine arts students Jose Tence Ruiz, Eros Basilio, Ramon Agapay and others at the Hidalgo Gallery in Makati. He joined sketching sessions with the pioneering Saturday Group at the Taza de Oro, and remembers selling a nude to another businessman who would eventually turn artist, Dante Silverio. Cruz had wanted to paint full-time, but knew that financial stability wouldn't come easy. Instead he found himself working as an account executive for Sining Makulay Inc., where he worked his way up to sales director. He also worked in marketing for the Manila Chronicle before opening Mediawise Communications, his own design and marketing support company, in 1993.



"ALL is Right"

Appropriately enough, it was for one of his company's projects, the widely-circulated Unicard "U" magazine, that Cruz managed to truly merge his two vocations. In search of a still life cover illustration, he decided to paint one himself in acrylic—and discovered a new fondness for the medium.

"The effect is basically the same as oil," he explains, "and it works for me, because I work fast. I can finish a painting in one or two sittings." Another time, he used watercolor pencil for an illustration for De La Salle University's President's Report—and promptly won an Anvil Award for the effort. "It's a mistaken belief that being an artist and an entrepreneur are mutually exclusive. If being a painter is in your person, it doesn't really go away."

Artistic passage

Cruz is married to the former Emilie Lombos, and the couple has two children: Chino, 11, a budding writer, and Gio, 9, who says he wants to be a cartoonist when he grows up. Cruz uses an easel of American hardwoood he inherited from his father. It was a gift to the elder Cruz from one of the American officers he used to sketch at the Fort McKinley Club after the war in 1945.

Cruz the younger wields his own bristle brush like a palette knife, producing thick, pastel-colored strokes with a seemingly reined-in energy, probably inspired by such favorite painters as Francis Bacon and Edward Hopper. Yet, his flowers, vases and other subjects are rendered with a decidedly feminine feel. "Oh, I have no insecurities about that softness," he laughs. "I guess that's my inner personality. I may be hyper on the surface, but I'm calm inside."

Twelve new works of such impressionist tableaux go on exhibit in Cruz's one-man show, "Passage," at the Crucible Gallery in Megamall, from Aug. 12 to 24. It's only his second one-man exhibit; he had his first last year, finally showing his *oeuvre* at age 48.

Cruz likes to see himself inhabiting that area of cooperation between artists and corporations. "I made a bid once for a project with Shell, and although I didn't get the job, I felt good that I got the opportunity to thank them for their support of the arts. I understand what corporate responsibility means. You have money in your hands—what do you do with it?"

Cruz likes to do his own giving back through fundraising projects with his high school classmates, the original *raison d'etre* of an exhibit planned for later in the year, before he was unexpectedly given a slot this month at Crucible Gallery. "At the end of the day, it's what you do for your craft and your community," Cruz says. "I'm just grateful that I found my means of expression in the course of my work."

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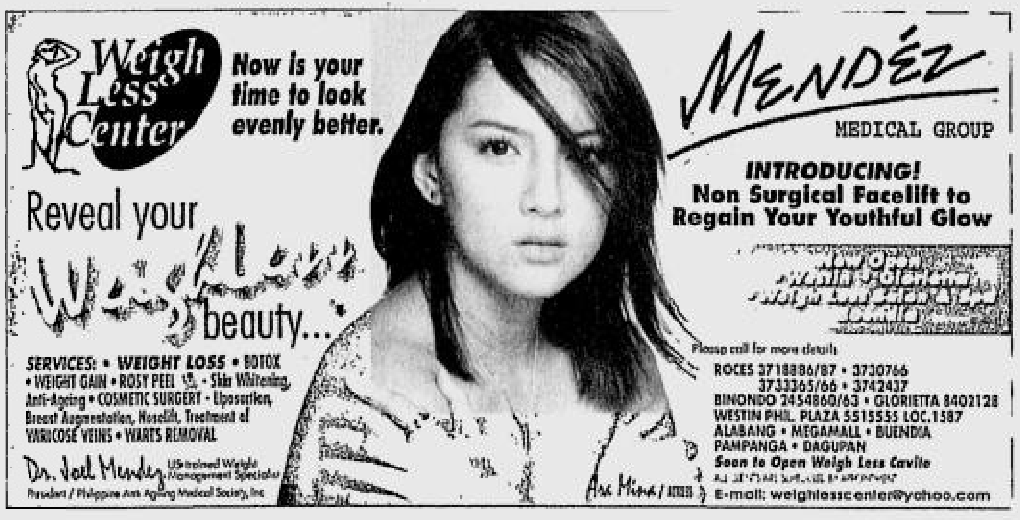
NOEL Matta recently held a solo photo exhibit at Casa Linda Inn, Puerto Princesa City. Dubbed "Digital Palawan," it captured the natural beauty of Calamianes Islands. Photo shows Matta (extreme right) welcoming guests (from left) Ito Tuason, Club Noah marketing director; Angie Mendoza of Casa Linda; Christina Matta of Dive K Link & Coral Bay; Anna Bulacan, writer; Lanny Esperanzate of Club Noah Isabelle; Iggy Pelaez of Hotel Fleuris; and Sheryl Saguiguit of Club Noah Isabelle.

Lita Bondoc-Flores
Interior Design

TASTEFUL DRAMA. The book's cover photo shows a detail from the Gabriel Building.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LITA BONDOC-FLORES

Queen of interiors

By Lito B. Zulueta

SHE IS perhaps interior design's most-interior, best-kept secret.

For 30 years, Lita Bondoc-Flores has been at the top of the design heap, working with major architects such as Gabriel Formoso and Leandro Locsin, and landing over 500 projects in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States.

By her account, she has never lost a bid. She has slowed down somewhat since 1988, but Flores, who has devoted more and more time to property development, still designs because of special requests by special friends.

She remains widely acknowledged as a yardstick and a barometer in interior design. She is, in a word, peerless.

"At an early age, I had a dream," she says. "I wanted nothing but to transform an ordinary space into a place of beauty and order. Creative thoughts on how it could be done crammed my mind. From that day forward, I knew that for my dream to be within touching distance, I must work at it."

And work she did. Those works are pictorially summed up in "Lita Bondoc-Flores: Interior Design," a lavish coffee-table book that chronicles her varied achievements in design.

It is arguably the first book on interior design in the country. Likewise, Bondoc's works are arguably key artistic guideposts in the growth of interior designing in the Philippines.

To appreciate Bondoc's achievement, one should remember that during the hotel boom in 1975-1977, she, with her design firm, the Angelita L. Bondoc & Partners in Interior Designing Inc., was appointed by the then Central Bank to oversee the interior design of all five-star hotels being constructed or renovated.

The ambitious project included the Manila Hotel, Philippine Plaza, Manila Garden (now Dusit), Midtown, Philippine Village, Midland Plaza, Regent of Manila, Hyatt Regency and Mandarin. She also did the interiors of the Central Bank and the Philippine International Convention Center.

All of these structures still bear the hallmarks of the indefinable style of Bondoc-Flores: slickness that doesn't fade out into staid minimalism, opulence that does not retrogress into tacky extravagance, and a baroque sensibility that teases the design possibilities out of every space, color spectrum,

QUEEN/ F4

COZY, classy nook. A detail from the interior designer's own home

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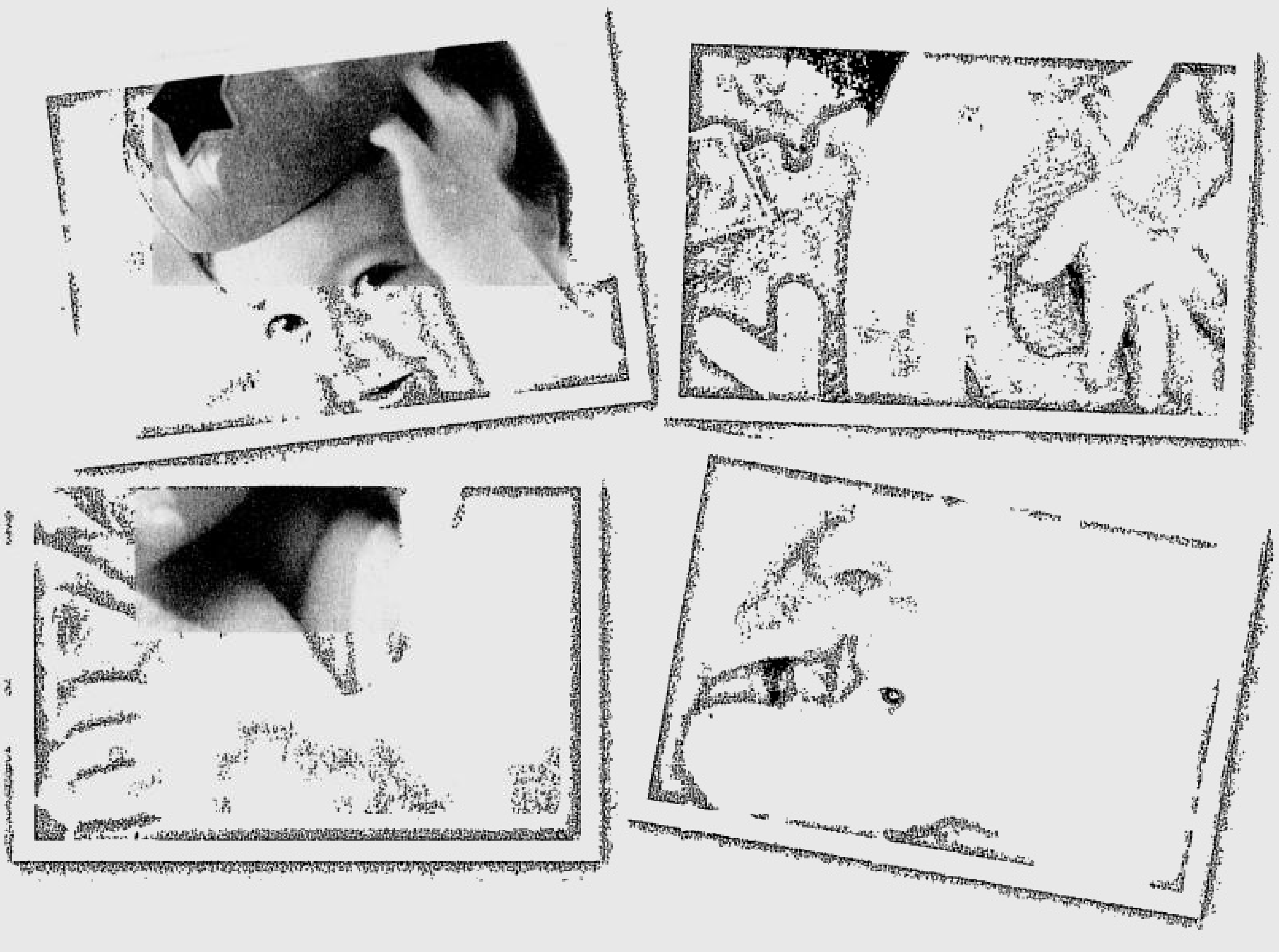

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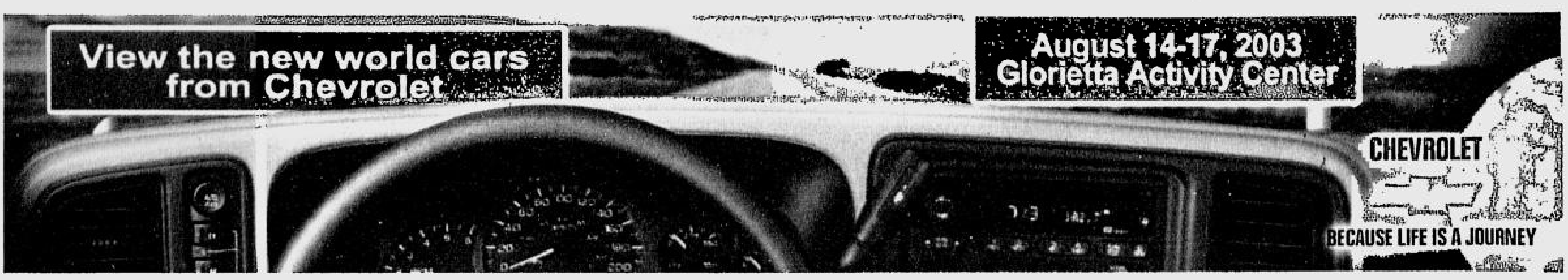

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Philips' partnership with the Filipino people dates back to 1920 when it first established its business of selling lighting products and short wave radio sets in the local market.

In 1956, spurred by the growing economy, Philips launched its corporate presence in the country with the opening of Philips Electronics and Lighting, Inc. at the Trade and Commerce Building in Binondo, Manila, which was the premier business center then.

Today, Philips Philippines is one of the biggest business organizations in the country, employing some 5,000 Filipinos. Its operations in the Philippines include two semiconductor plants in Laguna and a commercial office in Makati City.

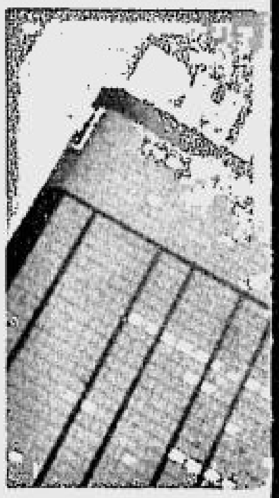
Making Filipino lives better for over 80 years.

Seven businesses empower Philips Philippines in helping the company attain its goal of improving the lives of Filipinos. These are lighting, discrete semiconductors in Cabuyao, IC semiconductors in Calamba, PD semiconductors in Makati, medical systems, domestic appliances and consumer electronics.

Philips' leadership in lighting is second to none, thanks to an innovative leadership combined with a systematic approach to seek out new market opportunities. Philips lighting casts its brilliant glow in the country's most famous landmarks and stores like the Peninsula Manila Hotel, St. James the Great Parish, Manila Jockey Club Subic International Airport, the National Museum facade, Essenses in Rustan's, National Bookstore and all Makro branches.

The discrete semiconductors in Cabuyao supplies most of the always present but hardly noticed chips that are used in mobile phones; audio-video equipment, automotive, engine and fuel

Philips: Eur



Philips, known for setting industry standards and advancing technology to new heights, has always been Europe's No.1 technology company and one of the world's most recognizable brands. Since brothers Gerard and Anton Philips of Eindhoven, Netherlands founded the company in the late 1800s, Philips has been providing consumers everywhere with top quality products to make their lives better for more than a hundred years.

Starting out as a manufacturer of incandescent lamps, Philips began producing radios, selling one million units in 1932. Philips research led the race to invent rotary heads, resulting in the development of the Philishave electric shaver. By the middle of the decade, Philips was the largest producer of radio and radio tubes in the world.

In 1963, Philips set the global standard for recording with its invention of the compact audiotape cassette, and this flow of exciting new products continued well into the 70s. By this time, Philips has sold 40 million television sets. Continued advanced research in lighting led to the development of the PL and SL energy-saving lamps. Philips also helped revolutionize the way we listen to music by co-inventing the compact disc, ushering the era of digital technology.

Philips brought TV viewing to new heights with many milestones in television technology such as the first 100Hz TV that eliminated picture flicker. It also brought in the benefits of digital technology with such innovations as Digital Scan, Digital Natural Motion, and Digital Crystal Clear which all helped improve the quality of TV images. Philips also introduced the Flat TV with the latest picture enhancement technology, as well as the High Definition TV that is ready to receive digital broadcast. Another Philips breakthrough is the introduction of the Mirror TV, a versatile LCD display integrated into a mirror.

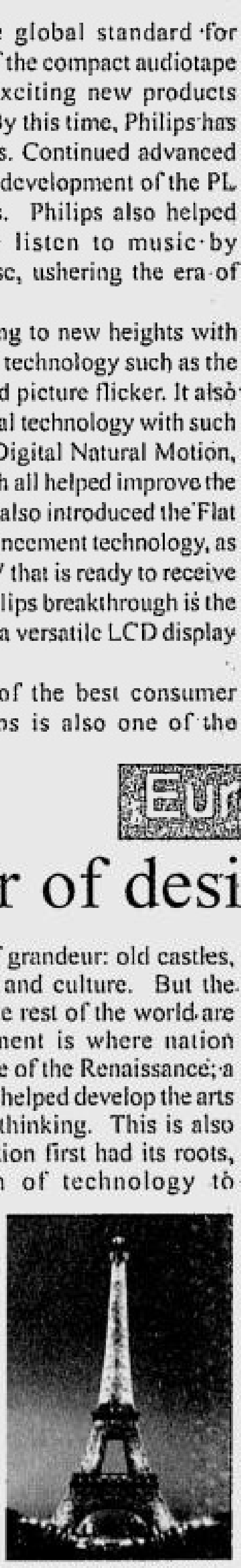
In line with its pursuit of the best consumer electronics products, Philips is also one of the

Eur

The center of desi

Europe evokes images of grandeur: old castles, famous landmarks, high art and culture. But the contributions of Europe to the rest of the world are more valuable. The continent is where nation building began. It is the home of the Renaissance; a major cultural movement that helped develop the arts as well as promote forward thinking. This is also where the Industrial Revolution first had its roots, spearheading the growth of technology to improve the lives of people from the 18th century and beyond.

Europe has always been the center of development, trailblazing new ideas through the 21st century. Today, Europe leads the race in providing the world with top-class products. Most countries look toward Europe for its avant-garde and cutting edge ideas in fashion, architecture, and technology.



Paris: the world's fashion capital.

The oldest and well-established fashion houses are in Europe; in fact, Paris and Milan have been the seats of *haute couture* for hundreds of years, with their collections starting the trends that spread like wildfire across the globe. A testament to their popularity is the fact that designs from clothing to accessories like shoes, bags and watches are often copied.

Popular schools of thought in design originated from Europe. Those who are more drawn to the past look to Europe's Old World charm for inspiration, while the more daring of designers fuse classic and contemporary in Neo-Classic works. Of course, European industrial designers started the trend towards ultra-modern designs that employ a unique mix of new materials to create a 21st century look.

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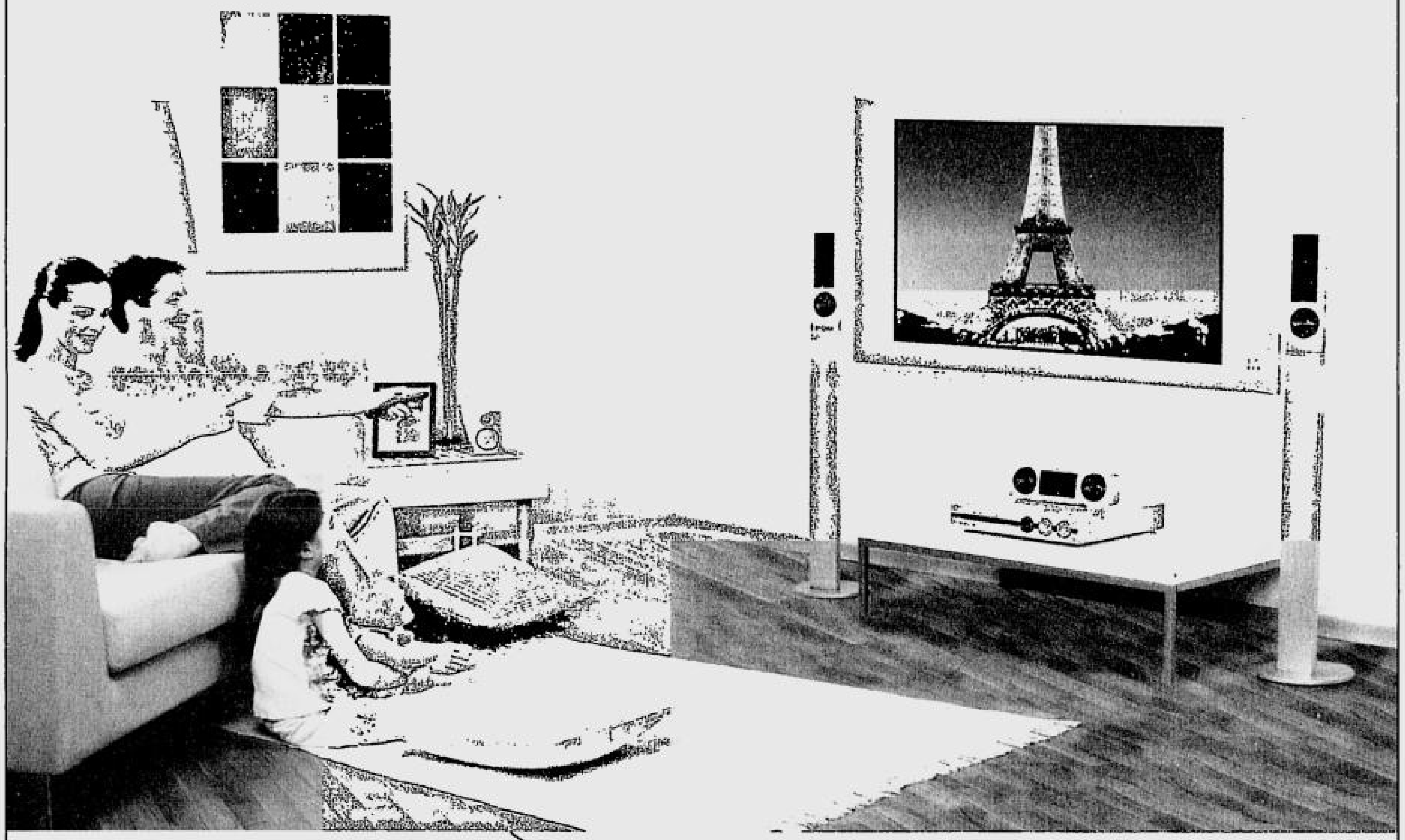

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IC semiconductors assembles and tests integrated circuits that cater to various applications like connectivity, displays, digital video and storage, to name a few.

PD semiconductors is the center of Philips' many core competencies. It is the leading provider of semiconductor-based solutions for consumer communications, PC and PC peripherals and automotive applications.

Philips medical systems has been a partner in helping medical institutions in providing quality patient care by introducing state-of-the-art technology in all of its medical systems that are easy-to-use, easy-to-integrate and easy-to-upgrade. The Intera MR System can handle any exam, from neuro, musculoskeletal and abdominal imaging to functional and cardiac studies, contrast-enhanced angiography and spectroscopic imaging.

Domestic appliances creates innovative products that serve the Filipino's needs and provides all the modern conveniences of every day life—from easy cooking to easy cleaning; from the user-friendly Philishave to the energy-efficient Diva irons.

Philips' drive to delight consumers is evident in its consumer electronics division. It provides Filipinos with the most compelling choices of home entertainment, personal expression, connectivity and productivity consumer electronics products that are state-of-the-art ranging from the Pixel Plus TV to DVD players with Progressive Scan.

Apart from its desire to achieve business success, Philips never loses sight of the role it plays in the communities where it does business. Through the Philips, Education and People (PEP) program, the company aims to uplift the Philippine educational system. The Centers for Technical Training Excellence (CTTEX) teaches technical curricula for technical operators and technicians while the Engineering Scholarship Program supports deserving students from the country's best engineering schools.

So it comes as no surprise that Philips Philippines has reaped a number of accolades in recognition of its commitment to make things better for Filipinos. Some of the numerous awards received by the company were: Best Employer in Asia in 2001, Top Exporter of the Philippines in 1999 and an ISO-9002 certification in 1991. Recently this year, the discrete semiconductors plant in Cabuyao was awarded the first ever TS16949 certification in the Philippines. TS16949 is a global standard for the automotive industry and its suppliers.

Philips Philippines continues to revolutionize the way Filipinos live since it started its mission in the country over 80 years ago. Through the years, Philips is proud and honored to have been witness to the progressive changes the nation has undergone as it remains ever committed in improving people's lives and making positive and lasting contributions toward the country's development.

ope's No.1

proponents of the Connected Home, a linked environment of communication devices and home entertainment appliances that work seamlessly together thanks to wireless technology. The Connected Home gives consumers greater personalized control, productivity and convenience as they no longer have to rely on stand-alone devices with stand-alone features.

In domestic appliances, Philips sets another milestone with its new generation of sonic toothbrushes called Sonicare Elite. Developed in cooperation with a team of periodontists and bioengineers at the University of Washington in Seattle, the Sonicare Elite features a patented sonic technology using a combination high frequency bristle motion and dynamic cleaning action. The Sonicare Elite even features a two-minute "smartimer" to promote dental professional-recommended brushing time, making it significantly more effective than a manual toothbrush.

Aside from these accomplishments, Philips has displayed great ingenuity by embarking in countless impressive projects. In 1919, as a contribution to the Netherlands' annual trade fair, Philips astounded the population with *Goliath*, the biggest lamp ever created, lighting up the entire central square of Utrecht. Ninety years later, as a global television audience watched from their homes, the Philips Millennium Lamp (a Waterford Crystal Ball containing 168 separate halogen lamps) welcomed in the new millennium in New York's Times Square.

And because for Philips, research is the company's lifeblood, it has built the Philips High-Tech Campus just outside Eindhoven. Home to 8,000 researchers of every discipline, it is one of the biggest, most advanced and best-equipped research centers in the whole of Europe.

The countless advancements in technology have certainly made Philips Europe's foremost name in product innovations. It is through these that Philips stays true to its commitment to make things better for people not just in Europe, but around the world.

pe

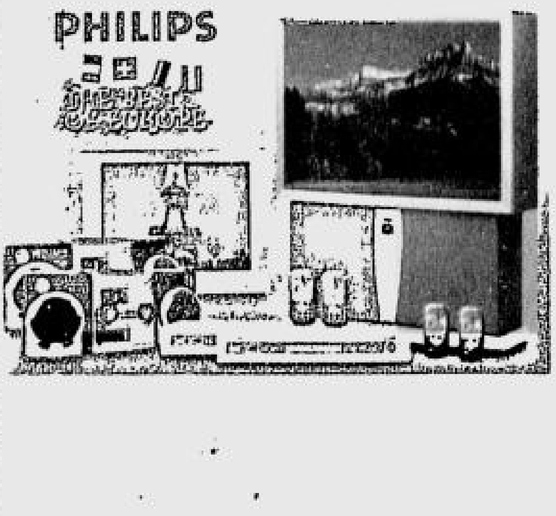
gn and technology

Europe also paved the way for the most sophisticated technology to improve consumer products. The Swiss are masters in the art of making precision timepieces. German cars are considered the best in the industry. European consumer electronics brand Philips has a tradition of setting industry standards since its establishment in the late 1800s, known for the latest technological innovations and cutting-edge, modern designs.

From the most sought after names in fashion to the widest range of design ideas and the most in-demand consumer electronic products, Europe certainly is able to give its best to the rest of the world.

Now you can have the chance to see Europe's most exciting cities with Philips Consumer Electronics "Best of Europe" promo. Four lucky winners will receive the first prize of trip packages to four different European destinations: Amsterdam, Germany, France, and Switzerland. Plus, Philips top entertainment products will also be given away.

For more information, see posters and print ads for more details.



Defining the essence of the Philips Brand

Brands are part of our everyday experience — from the cars we drive to the clothes we wear. A clear, strong brand is appealing because consumers instantly recognize and know what it is.

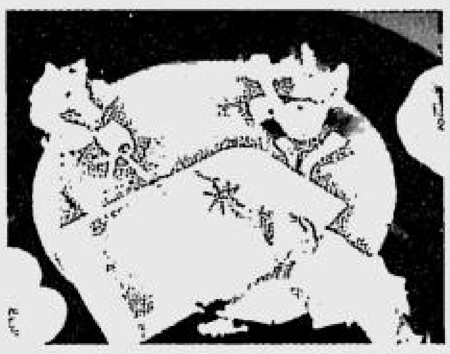
The brand Philips is the result of more than 100 years of investment in design and research, in technology, creativity and marketing. Guided by its Brand Foundation, Philips has been leading the way, setting new standards, pushing technology to new heights and improving people's lives.

Where do we come from?

Anton and Gerard Philips – innovators and entrepreneurs who succeeded in business while improving people's lives.

Their founding belief was that by daring to make choices that improve the lives of people both inside and outside the company, they would be successful not by coincidence but by design.

What are we good at?



Bringing meaningful technology innovations to the market at the right time.

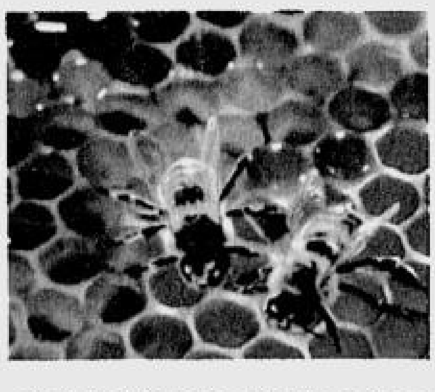
Philips designs and delivers answers to what people really want and need, perhaps even before they know they do. Its goal is to constantly delight each customer with breakthroughs both large and small.

How do we act?

The Pioneer: tenacious, engaging, curious and daringly imaginative.

Philips has the courage to lead, the humility to recognize the size of each task, and the self-confidence to believe it can be achieved.

What do we value most?



Entrepreneurship, cooperation and sustainability.

True to its origins, Philips is fueled by the desire to do good as it does well – which is to build a business of globally repeatable successes, mindful always of the social, environmental and economic impact of the choices it makes.

Whom do we serve?

People everywhere who are making sense of the new.

In a world of constant change, technology can be both opportunity and obstacle. Whatever our customer's comfort level, however complex their relationship with technology may be, Philips wants to be an ingenious partner, helping them shape a richer future.

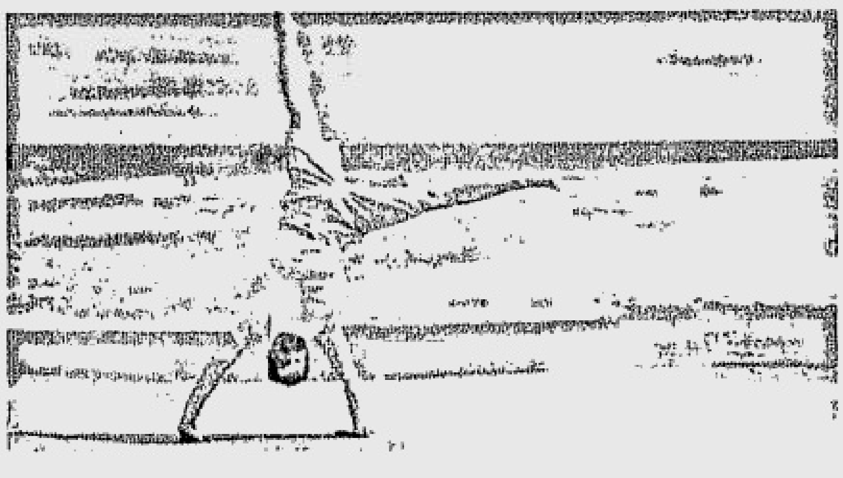
How are we different?

Through a deeper understanding of the moments people experience technology.

People interact with technology practically every second, often without realizing it. Only by appreciating better how these interactions take place can Philips enhance their customer's experience of them. Philips leverage its ubiquity and uses these 'moments' to listen, learn and create.

Why do we do all this?

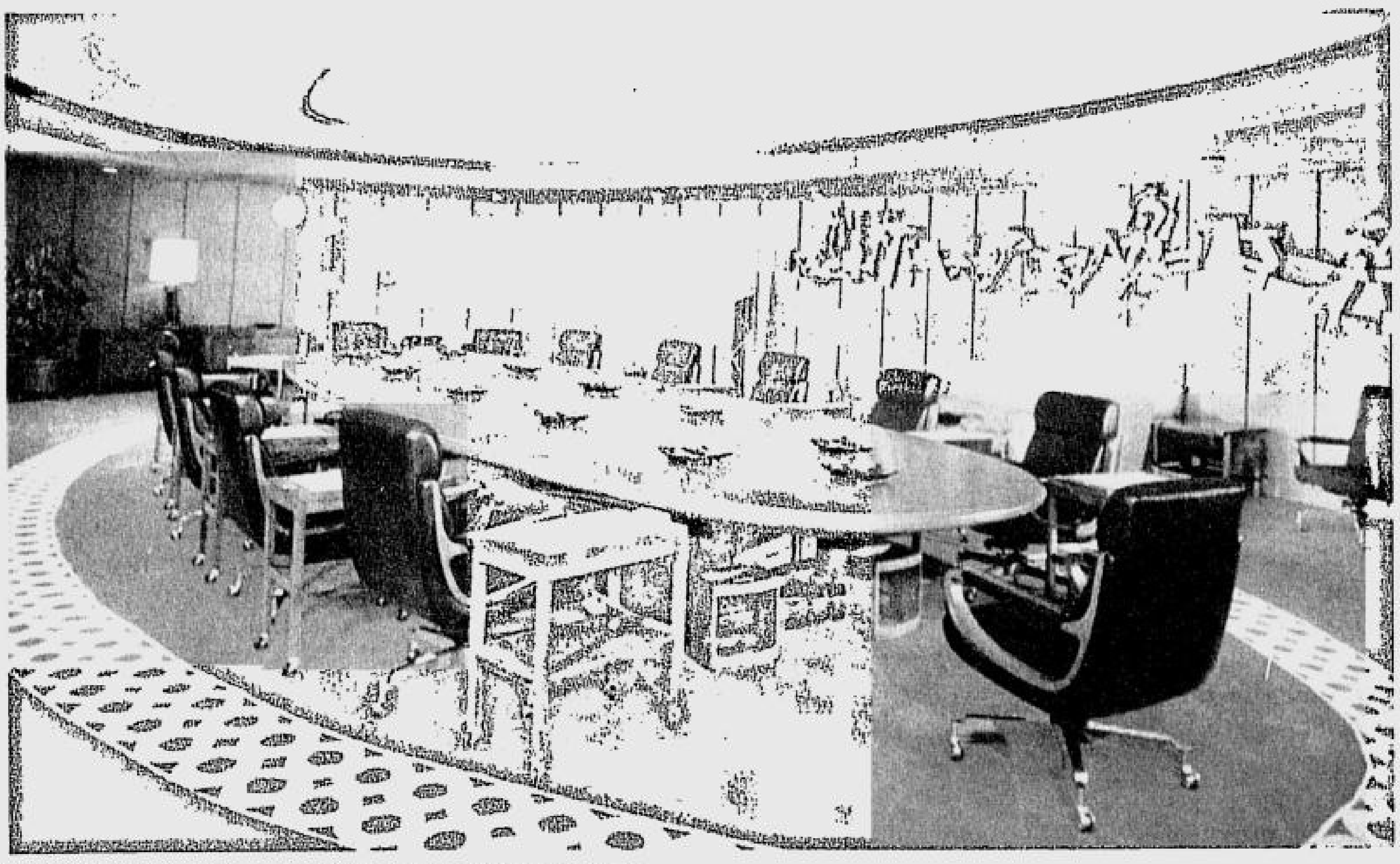
Because Philips is driven to improve people's lives.



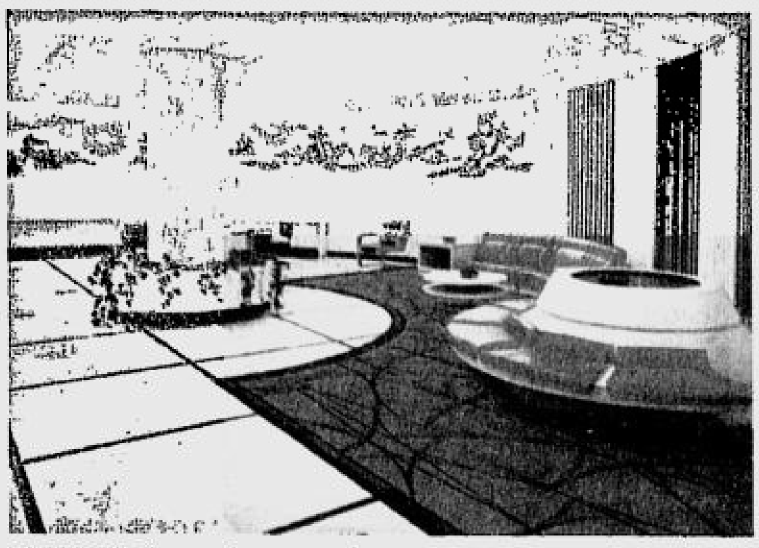
Philips is deeply committed to be an ingenious partner in helping people shape a richer future by constantly striving to find the right fit between people and technology; mindful always of the social, environmental and economic impact of the choices it makes.

What to know more, log in to www.philips.com

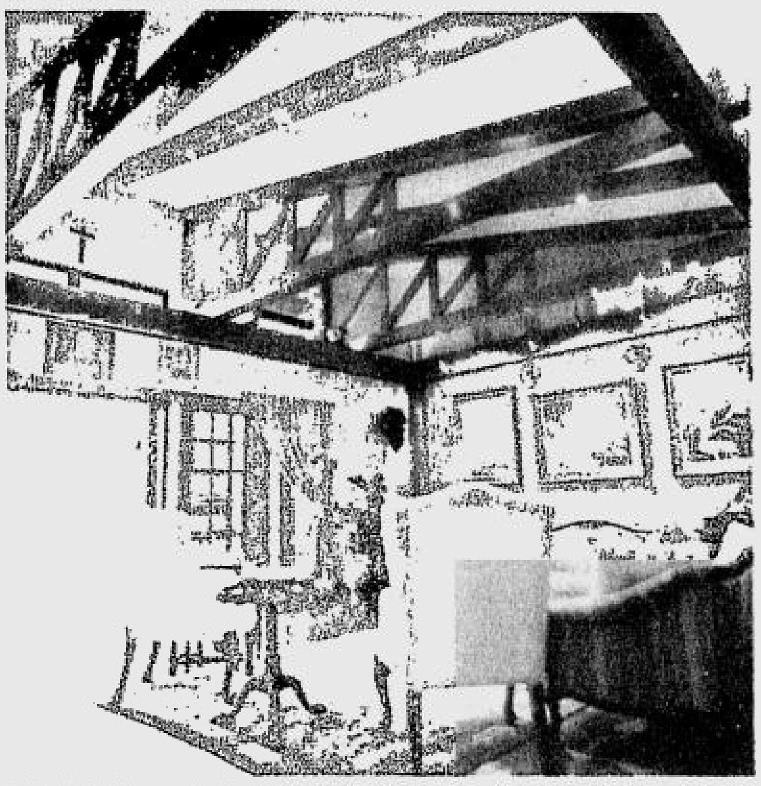
PHILIPS



THE CENTRAL Bank board room breathes the power of business.



DRAMATIC lines and patterns characterize the lobby of the old Far East Bank building in Intramuros.

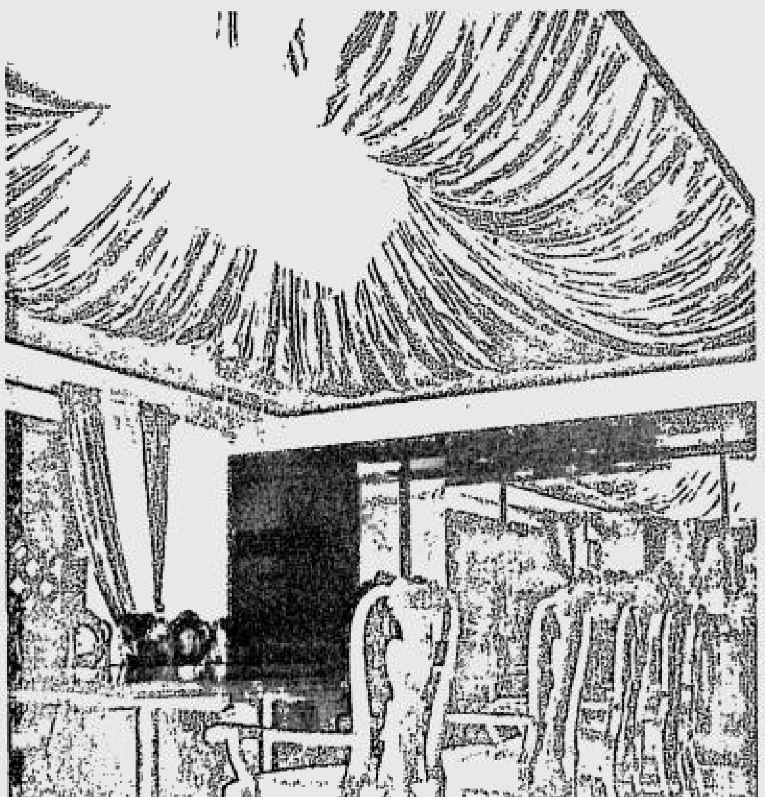


UNCANNY tropical ambience in Clearwater Bay, Hong Kong

Queen of interiors

A new coffee-table book documents lavishly one woman's design odyssey

LITA Bondoc-Flores at home



RICH, plush feel in the dining room of a house in Corinthian Gardens

CLUTTER and chaos upgraded to art in the designer's own home. "My own home violates all design rules," Bondoc says.

From page F1

material, ingredient, concept and archetype.

Hers was a globalist sensibility even before global became today's paradigm. North, South, East and West converge in her design.

In her interiors, the masculine and the feminine, the Yin and the Yang also come together in a strange, spell-binding congerie.

And it is not as if Bondoc's name is associated only with big-ticket corporate projects. Residential projects have provided her with the chance to indulge in a free play of patterns, colors, accents and inspirations, without, of course, leaving her clients behind.

Perhaps her own house in Forbes Park is representative of her residential design projects. "My home violates all rules of design," she says in the book.

Indeed, she seems to scoff at formulas.

"Seasoned designers cannot decorate by formula," she writes. "It's all a question of the discerning eye."

But the style is, as we said, indefinable—which does not mean faceless and undistinguished. It only means no two design projects are alike.

"There is no Lita Bondoc style," she says. "I come secondary to what is right for my interior and my client's needs. My favorite project is whatever I am working on at the moment."

The design tenor is very much evident in Bondoc's CEO Suites, the well-known address on Jupiter Street, Makati City, that shows one of the designer's forays into property development.

Inside are suites that don't stay quite put; they may look executive and corporate, but they don't come off as sedate and anaesthetized.

Rich rugs and damasks balance off the business feel. Metals, wrought iron and mirrors check any drift toward formaldehyde. The atmosphere is professional but passionate, corporate but intimate.

Then there is Gabriel Bldg., which she did with architect Gerardo Flores. It was her first venture into property development.

"This was a make-or-break affair," she recalls. "We poured all we had."

It also afforded Bondoc the feel of being an architect, interior designer and client all at the same time.

"So what do you do when the architect is the one of you, the interior designer is the other you, and the client is the both of you?" she writes in the book. "...the result was chaos and a precious jewel."

Perhaps the design sense will become evident in Bondoc's new development project, Les Jardins de Gabriel, a one-hectare residential development inside the San Jose Subdivision in Alabang, some 600 meters from the Alabang Town Center, Filinvest Mall and Madrigal Business Park.

Offering only 132 condominium, townhouse and duplex units, the project will provide residents with the feel of French garden homes as expressed in both exterior and interior dimensions.

Remarkable

Her aggressive venture into property development somehow represents an artistic evolution whose trajectory has been quite remarkable. After graduating at the then College of Architecture and Fine Arts of the University of Santo Tomas (UST), Bondoc found herself heading the interior design department of Gabriel Formoso and Partners.

"I validated what I already knew from age 10—that interior design was my lifeblood," she says.

Six years later, she put up her own design firm.

Bondoc has a keen spirit of competition. In the book, she writes in her own handwriting, "Any competition—especially if it is with the seasoned masters in the field—is a daunting task. It is a steep, uphill climb. It takes much more diligence, it needs unflinching focus."

A DETAIL from Bondoc's own home. "Much of the real grandeur is in the details that don't immediately register," she says.

BONDOC'S version of classy dining is "a lesson in humility, a nugget of equality, a vision of hope—it welcomes everyone."

She adds that competing with the big names was difficult, but "instead of losing hope, I sharpened my pencil, learned all I could, researched no end, got my team together, gave all I had, and earned battle scars along the way."

Her competitive spirit won her projects in Singapore, notably doing the interiors of all of the 27 floors of the Nepture Orient Lines Ltd.

"All I knew was—I was competing against internationally known designers considered by Singapore to take the country forward in the arena of interior design."

Although well-researched and scholarly, Bondoc does not have design icons; she is not partial to any one idiom or style.

Asked who her design influences are, she replies, "Not 'who' but 'where.' My basic design influence is, of course, my school, UST. On the practical side, exposure at Gabriel Formoso & Partners Architectural Firm where I worked. This was supported by research done through travel, books, and observation."

Her creative process is exacting and austere, akin to the ascetical acrobatics of anchorites.

"I first study my client and determine toward what direction he leans, and then I develop the concept for him," she says. "My creative process is difficult, with long internalization—relating the needs to a particular design, I am sensitive to pick up in between the lines what he wants to express."

Bondoc is also practical. She is an incorrigible recycler. "My first impulse in designing is to use some of the furniture the client already possesses," she says in the book. "I don't believe in throwing out everything and starting from scratch."

Her design spirit is thus basically evocative.

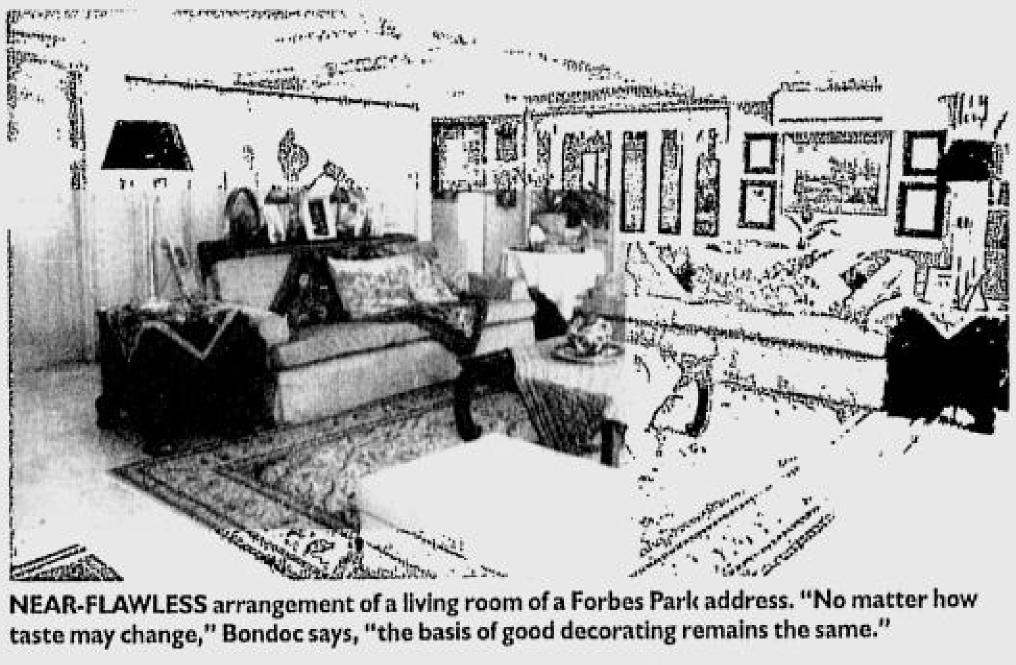
"The mixture of the familiar, the beautiful, the nostalgic and the quaint—along with a fragile sense of the passage of time—presents to my mind a proper introduction to the feel of the place," she writes. As she puts it, "I am a rearranger. A good house can be moved and moved and nothing looks out of place."

Her art is driven and is its own best reward.

"My inspirations? The new project! How to make it a thing of beauty to satisfy both the client's needs and that of the interior designer. The design process is finalized between the client and myself, and I know it is right when it can satisfy both function and art."

The result of such cenobitic aesthetic is nothing short of thaumaturgic. A space that that has been endowed with Bondoc's grace casts a certain spell. She modestly calls interior design a "minor art." But in her case, make that major—nay, sublime—magic.

The book "Lita Bondoc-Flores" will be launched on Aug. 15, 6:30 p.m. at the 27th floor of the Salcedo Towers, 169 H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati. For information about the book or the Les Jardins de Gabriel project, call 812-8718.



NEAR-FLAWLESS arrangement of a living room of a Forbes Park address. "No matter how taste may change," Bondoc says, "the basis of good decorating remains the same."